

LIVING IN EXILE

1 Peter 1:13-16 – Active Holiness

February 7, 2016

“...you shall be holy, for I am holy.” -1 Peter 1:16

I. THREE IMPERATIVES

1. Set your hope fully on the grace...
 2. Be holy in all your conduct
 3. Conduct yourself with fear... (vs. 17)
- The indicative (all the truths of verses 1-12) leads to the imperatives. What God has done for us dictates how we should live our lives in response (Lev. 11:45; Rom. 12:1; 1 Cor. 6:20).
 - The steps toward accomplishing these imperatives are:
 1. Preparing our minds for action
 2. Being sober-minded
 - Our hope is based on the future grace we will know at Christ's return (vs. 13; 1 Pet. 1:5).
 - Our holiness is tied to God's holiness and to his great Name (Lev. 18:2-5; Ezek. 36:20-23; Rom. 2:24).

II. ACTIVE HOLINESS: GOOD CALLED EVIL

- Obedience to God and authority is always commended in Scripture. Our world has turned that principle upside down (Ex. 20:12; Num. 12:1-15; Matt. 15:4; Heb. 13:7; 1 Pet. 2:17).
- Are we not free in Christ? Freedom compels holiness for the true believer, not self-gratification (1 Cor. 6:12; 1 Pet. 2:15-16).
- The Christian life is anything but boring. Being holy is never easy, but always a positive goal in life. Ignorance, contra popular opinion, isn't really bliss (vs. 14; Eph. 4:17-19).

KNOW: We are called as Christ-followers to an active obedience. Salvation is the goal of our faith, holiness is the goal of our life.

DO: Pursue a holy life.

Suggested Reading:

The Holiness of God, by R.C. Sproul

The Hole in our Holiness, by Kevin DeYoung

The Imitation of Christ, by Thomas a' Kempis

The Pursuit of Holiness, by Jerry Bridges

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read 1 Peter 1:13-16

1. What does it look like to prepare your mind for action and to be sober-minded?
2. How do we respond to the accusation that Christianity is boring, that being a Christian saps the fun out of life? Has this been true in your experience?
3. How do we set our hope on something we have not yet seen? Are there concrete things we have experienced that help us to believe more is yet to come?
4. Peter assumes that his readers' former lives were ruled by ignorance. Is that a fair assumption? Does it speak truly of your former way of life?
5. God is holy. How can we be holy? Is it not an unfair comparison and demand?
6. What steps can/will you take to pursue holiness in your own life?