

## A life of holiness in the light of redemption

### 1. Intro

- What motivates you to get out of bed in the morning?
  - Your job and the satisfaction you get from it?
  - Your spouse as you seek to help them with their day?
  - Your children who need feeding and packing off to school?
  - Your boyfriend / girlfriend who's so dreamy and yummy?
  - Your uni course that's setting you up for your career
  
- Everyone who does anything in life does so because they have an underlying motivation to do it
  - Whether it's an athlete training hard in order to win a gold medal
  - Or a mum being sleep deprived because she wants to care for her baby
- What's your motivation for life?
- More importantly ... what's your motivation for living the Christian life
  
- In these verses Peter begins to outline to his readers
  - not only what the Christian life looks like,
  - but also the motivation for living such a life
  
- We need to realise that it's just as important to have the right motivation for living the Christian life as it is to live it
- In these verses Peter begins to show us what the Christian life looks like
  - A life of hope
  - A life of holiness
  - A life of reverence
- But he'll also give us the motivation for living such a life

### 2. A life of hope (v13) [SLIDE]

- Peter starts v13 with 'Therefore ...'
  - What he's about to urge them to do ... flows out of what he has just been saying
  - In v1-12 Peter's been saying
    - Your true identity is you're one of God's elect and chosen ones who are strangers in the world
    - You've been born again into a living hope and eternal inheritance
    - Because of Jesus resurrection you have complete assurance of this wonderful salvation
    - It all comes because of God's grace and mercy

- And when we understand all that ... and are convicted of those truths ... then we'll be strengthened to obey the commands that follow
- **Application**
- Important we understand ... that Christian living and ethics always flow out of what God has done for us in Christ
  - Unless we remember that ... then the exhortations to live godly lives will cause us to conclude
    - our worth and value with God and therefore our salvation depends on how good a Christian life we live
    - That's hopeless ...
      - It will drive us to despair as we constantly fail; or
      - It will make us proud and self-righteous and push us even further away from God
- So always, always, always remember, the Christian life we're called to live out ... is in response to what God has done for us in Jesus
  - You're one of God's elect
  - Born again > into a living hope > eternal inheritance > wonderful salvation
- If ever you feel like Christian life is a burden of work work work, do this do that, be good, stop failing ...
  - Stop > look at the cross > remember that in Christ you've been born again into a living hope and an eternal inheritance
- What does Peter want Christians to do in response to all this
  - v13 - "*set your hope<sup>1</sup> fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.*"
- To set your hope fully on the grace to be given you ...
  - it's to believe in the gospel
  - it's to believe all that Peter outlined in v3-5
    - There's a salvation from judgment that has come to you by faith through the death and resurrection of Jesus
    - It's a gospel of grace ... it comes to us because of God's mercy
      - He chose us and died for us ... not because of anything we did
      - We're totally undeserving of it
    - But God does it because he is a God of grace

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<sup>1</sup> Hope in 1 Peter is synonymous with faith. Piper - hope reminds the readers that one trusts God for the future

- And Peter says ... 'set your mind **fully** on this'
  - Do it completely, unreservedly, without distraction
  - Make this the focus of your life
  - Make this the thing that dictates who you are and how you live
  - Let this reality shape and mould your thinking and your living
  
- We're to fix our eyes on the future when Jesus returns and you and I experience that salvation
  - Not just a salvation from judgment
  - But the gift of our heavenly inheritance and eternal life
  
- Peter says the way to set your hope fully on the grace given to you is by
  - Preparing your minds for action
  - Being self-controlled
  
- NIV dullens the imagery here and makes it a bit more PC
  - Preparing your minds for action = girding up the loins of your mind for action
  - Image of a man wearing a long robe preparing to run ... he hitches it up between his legs and tucks it into his belt
- In the same way ... Christians are to gird the loins of their minds for the task at hand
  - Living the Christian life won't just happen without applying ourselves to the task
  - Living in a way that honours the grace of the gospel doesn't just happen automatically
  - It's not like you're born again and you receive the HS and then he takes over your life while you sit back, switch off and do nothing
  - Living a life that honours Jesus requires effort, discipline and intentionality to orientate ourselves toward everything that we will receive when Jesus returns
  
- Second way to set our minds fully on the grace give to us is by ...
- Being self controlled = lit. by being sober)
  - Peter's not saying they should refrain from drunkenness, but that they should remain clear minded and focused on their future hope ... not dull-minded and anesthetised by the attractions of the world
  - Peter's readers need to be clear thinking and self-controlled if their trials and temptations are not to move them from a hope-filled life

- Peter says ... set your hope fully on the grace given to you by preparing your minds for action and being sober minded

### Application

- Hope is a powerful thing
- The hope of a future goal will drive people to do extraordinary things
  - Our Commonwealth Games athletes have trained for a life time ... enduring hours and hours of exhausting training sessions, early starts, aching bodies, no social life, constantly watching their diet ... why?
    - All in the hope of winning a gold medal
  - Hope of a better life is what drives refugees to spend huge sums of money and risk their life in order to flee to Australia
  - Hope will drive parents to work two jobs, sacrifice their own comfort in order for their kids to have a better education or live in a better suburb
  - Hope of a rich life will drive someone to sacrifice family life in order to work their way up the career ladder and to a larger salary
- But all worldly hopes are uncertain hopes
  - There's no guarantee
    - Athlete will win a gold medal
    - Refugee will be allowed into Australia even if they make it
    - Children will turn out better because of the education they received
    - Career promotions will come or survive the round of redundancies
- But the hope that you've been born into as a Christian is a sure and living hope ... guaranteed by the death and resurrection of Jesus ... and kept in heaven for you awaiting your final salvation
- This is the hope we're to focus on
  - This is the hope we're to prepare our minds for
  - This is the hope be sober-minded for
- All other things that society tells us to put our hope it is fickle
  - There's no guarantee
  - Certainly has no eternal significance
- Peter says ... '*set your hope **FULLY** on the grace given to you*'
  - And so we need to ensure we don't allow ourselves to be distracted from the hope given to us in Christ ... by putting our hope in other things
- Don't set your hope in life on
  - Getting rich

- Having a family
- Having the best education
- Being successful
- Getting the dream house or the dream job
  
- It's fine to have a family, have an education, have success
  - But don't allow your desire and hope for those things to distract you from setting your hope FULLY on the grace given to you'
- They're not certain and they're not eternal
  - But the sure and certain hope of the gospel is
  - So set your minds fully on that

### 3. A life of holiness (14-16) [SLIDE]

- What's life look like when you set your hope fully on the grace given to you
- v15 Peter says ... you live a holy life
  - "Be holy in all you do"
  
- To be holy is not to speak with a plum in one's mouth > 'hoe-ly'
- To be holy is to be 'set apart'
- Throughout the OT book of Leviticus ... God is constantly saying to Israel - "Be holy ..."
  - He was urging his people to live lives that are morally and spiritually distinct from the evil practices of the Egyptians and Canaanites
  - They're to separate themselves from evil
  
- Here Peter is urging Christians ... not to return to the their old ungodly ways of the past ... but to remain distinct > to be holy
  - They're to live lives that are different from the world around them that show they're the elect people of God who've been born again
  
- The reason or motivation Peter gives them to live holy lives is because that reflects on who God is
  - v15 - **just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;**
  - Or as God said in the OT "*be holy because I am holy*"<sup>2</sup>
  - As Christians we're to imitate God and his character
  
- Which makes sense
  - If by his mercy we are God's elect and chosen people

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<sup>2</sup> Lev. 11:44,45; 19:2; 20:7

- Then we ought to be people who reflect the nature and character of God in the way that we live
- To do otherwise shows we haven't truly understood or believed in the truth of the gospel

**[SLIDE]****● Illustration – Kids imitating parents**

- It's funny as a parent to see how similar your kids are to you
  - Photos of Liana and Ally
  - Liam and I are very similar
    - Height!
    - Personality > first child, high achievers, conscientious, sporty
    - Facial features > brow!
    - Voice > sounds like me
  - Kids imitating us
    - Ally lifts eye brow like Liana
    - Liam pouts lips when he reads like Liana
- It's not surprising really ... we expect our kids to imitate us
  - We'd be surprised if they didn't
  
- Same is true of us as God's chosen children
  - Our lives ought to reflect our new identity as God's elect who've been born again
  - We're to imitate him > be holy ... because he is holy
  
- How are we to be holy in all we do?
- Peter says two things
- Firstly, obedience
  - Obedience to God and his word
    - Loving the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind & strength
    - Loving your neighbour as yourself
    - Taking the word of God seriously and asking God by the power of the HS to help you live it out
  
- Second this is - *No longer conforming to our old ways*
  - He urges them to turn their backs on those things they said and did in the past (before they were Christian) that dishonoured rather than honoured God
  - They're to refuse those desires and do what's good and holy

**● Illustration - Clean & Dirty**

- Tough Mudder (photos) [SLIDE x3]
  - Fitness challenge > wade through mud pools, climb walls, get electric shocks, wriggle through tunnels
  - Come through it filthy
  - Imagine > take off all dirty clothes, go have shower, clean up, fresh clothes on ... go and crawl through the mud again
  - Why! You've finished with that > you're a clean now > new person ... don't go back and do that again
- This is what Peter is urging his readers to do
  - Don't go back to the old ways before you were a Christian
  - Don't conform to the pattern of the world anymore ... you've been born again > you're a new person now > God's called you > you're one of his chosen people > you're in Christ
  - It doesn't make sense to go back to all that

### Application

- So our new identity as God's chosen people ought to shape the way you live your life
  - We're to be holy in all we do ... because God himself is holy
  - And notice that no part of life is exempt from Peter's charge for he says 'be holy **in all your** conduct.'
- No part of our life is exempt from this
  
- What are the areas of your life where you have the opportunity to be holy?
  - What are the ways you can live your life that's going to make your distinct amongst your friends, family, work colleagues, neighbours and ultimately reflect on the holiness of God?
  - Use of money
  - Speech
  - Use of alcohol
  - Attitudes to sex, career, material possessions
  
- There are many aspects to our life where we can be and need to be distinct
- Apostle says ... be holy in all your conduct
  - Live lives that are distinct and holy ... because the God you called you and blessed you with an eternal inheritance is holy

### 4. A life of fearful reverence (17-21) [SLIDE]

- In addition to calling on his readers to live a life of hope and holiness ... Peter also urges them to live a life of reverence towards God

- "v17 - live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear."
- This is not a fear of terror ...
  - It's a healthy fear, a fear that keeps us on track as Christians
- **Illustration - Driving Fear**
- A good driver will have a healthy fear of the dangers associated with driving ... that prevents them from doing anything foolish
- In the same way, a healthy dose of fear prevents Christians from returning to their old ways and sliding back into their sinful past
- Peter goes on to give his readers two key reasons to live a life of fearful reverence towards God
- The first is because God your Father is an impartial judge, verse 17
  - Christians will never become complacent, even though we know God as our Father, when we remember that he's also our judge
  - He'll weigh our deeds ...
    - not to determine whether or not we are saved
    - he won't weigh our deeds to see whether the good outweighs the bad
    - but he'll judge our lives to see if our lives match the faith we profess
  - To those who've ignored him, Jesus will declare the foolishness of their hypocritical profession and say
    - *"I never knew you. Away from me you evil doers!"*
  - But the faithfulness of the God's elect will be displayed for judgment and their deeds will prove the genuineness of their faith
- And so because we know that one day, we'll stand before him as the judge who'll pronounce our eternal future ... we live a life of reverent fear
- Now Peter's not calling us to soul-destroying dread
  - After all, God is our Father through whom we are born again
  - We are his chosen people
  - He has an eternal inheritance waiting for us in heaven
- Yet we are to fear him in reverence and awe ... because he is also our judge
- The second reason Peter gives to fear God is in v18-19
  - And it's because the precious blood of Jesus has redeemed us from a futile way of life
- Peter is saying, as Christians who've been born again ...



- you've moved from a life of futility and sin ...
- to a life of hope and eternal life
- But all this came at cost ...
  - You had to be redeemed Peter says
  - There was a price to pay
    - It can't be paid for by you or I using silver or gold ... as precious as they may be
    - It had to be paid by something even more precious which was '*the precious blood of the Lord Jesus*'.
- And because God has redeemed you for salvation and eternal life with something as **infinitely precious to him as his sinless, perfect Son** ... then you ought to fear him as our judge
  - especially if we choose to ignore him by blending in with the ways of the world
  - rather than living lives of hope, holiness and reverence
- **Illustration - Precious Car [SLIDE]**
- Andrew Scipione > NSW Police Commissioner > Christian > lives in Lugarno
- Say he started coming to our church ... and he turns up in a \$300,000 Ferrari
- Say one of you runs your key up the side of the car after church ... because you don't think policemen should drive such expensive cars
- When he finds that scratch ... you know he's going to find who did it and bring them to account
  - You won't get away with it ... because that car cost him a lot of money and is precious to him
  - So it would be right to fear him
- Peter's saying ... God redeemed you at a great price with something that was so precious to him
  - So you ought to fear him
  - Because he's the judge ... and if you choose to ignore him ... you know he will not let you off lightly
- **Application**
- Part of living lives that reflect our true identity as one of God's chosen people ... means living a life of fearful reverence
  - Because after all he's our judge

- He's made us one of his elect through the precious blood of Jesus
- And so it's really important we have a right understanding of God
  - Yes .. he's our Father ... but he's also our judge
  - And we need to have both aspects of God's character in mind
- We don't want to merely focus on God as Father ...
  - Because that will cause us to become too casual with God
  - Start thinking of him as our 'daddy' > that's not right
  - Because we forget that he's also our judge
- But the flip side is to remember that he is also our heavenly Father
  - He's not a tyrannical judge
  - He's chosen us according to his foreknowledge (v2)
  - He's shown us mercy by giving us new birth into a living hope and an eternal inheritance
- So remember who he is > our Father in heaven who is also our judge

## 5. Conclusion

- Peter wants you & I to live lives that reflect our identity as God's elect
  - He says when you understand
    - God has chosen you; and
    - That in Christ you've been born again into a living hope and an eternal inheritance
  - It should shape the way you live your life
  - It is the foundation of what motivates us to live the Christian life
- That life is
  - a life of hope set fully on the Lord Jesus
  - a life of holiness in all you do
  - a life of reverence as you God as judge

## PRAY

Dear God, We praise you for your amazing grace that you have shown us in Jesus. As we set our hope on this grace, please help us to be self-controlled and prepare our minds for action. We praise you that you are a holy God and that have set us apart to be your children. Please help us to live lives that are holy and distinct so that we might glorify you. Please forgive us when we don't. Help us to remember that you have saved us from your judgment through the redeeming death of Christ so that we might live in reverence and honour of you. In the name of Jesus, **AMEN**