

HOLINESS: *The Underrated Quality*

Got Hope? Messages from 1 Peter

February 27 & 28, 2010

1 Peter 1:13-2:3

1:¹³ *Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.*

•Living God's way requires getting your _____ on _____.

¹⁵ *But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."*

•Living God's way means you become _____ him.

¹⁷ *Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. ¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ²⁰ He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹ Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.*

•Living God's way is _____ and _____ by Christ's sacrifice.

²² *Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. ²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴ For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.*

2:¹ *Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. ² Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.*

•Living God's way means _____ God's Word.

Questions for Personal Reflection And Group Discussion

1. When you think of the word, "holiness," what comes to mind?
2. In a nutshell, what did the Apostle Peter mean when he wrote about being holy?
3. Notice that Peter appeals to the fact that Christians are born again as children in God's family (14,17,23). How does this reality influence your decision-making?
4. Verse 14 mentions the importance of not being conformed to worldly ways. What does Rom. 12:2 propose as the solution to handling the lure of fleshly desires? What does it say we are to do in order to avoid being pressured into the world's mold?
5. In verse 15, Peter refers to the Christian's calling. He used the word called a few times in this letter. I imagine he remembered well the occasion when Jesus literally called him. Take a look at these other verses in 1 Peter to get an even better idea of what our call involves: 2:9; 2:21, 3:9; 5:10.
6. Take a look at the description of what it cost God to buy us back from slavery and set us free (17-19). What impression do these verse make on you?
7. Why does Peter emphasize the enduring nature of God's Word in 1:23-25? What does he tell us to do with the Word in 2:2? What will result?
8. Do you agree that holiness is an underrated quality? Does God value it more highly than we do? What should our response be to what we are learning in this study?

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•Living God's way requires getting your head on straight.

15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

•Living God's way means you become more like him.

17 Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. 18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. 21 Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

•Living God's way is empowered and motivated by Christ's sacrifice.

22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. 23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, 25 but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

2:1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

•Living God's way means obeying God's Word.