

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

Hope, Holiness and Honor 1 Peter 1:13-17 Part One

We have been considering the greatness of our salvation. The consideration of this theme will quite naturally lead the believer to action. The reason for this is quite simple. In **Luke 12:48** a principle is given to which we need to pay attention **“to whom much is given much is required.”** The greater the gift the greater the responsibility in respect to that gift.

We need to understand that though a gift may be free it does not release us from the responsibility before the Lord to be good stewards of that gift. If someone came up to me today and gave me an old bicycle I would become responsible for that old bicycle before the Lord. If someone after giving me the bicycle came up to you and gave you a brand new car you would then become responsible for that car before the Lord. Who could do more with His gift? Would I with my old bicycle or you with a brand new car? The answer would seem to be you with your brand new car, because you had received more, more would therefore be required of you.

We have been given the gift of salvation. And we have become responsible for this gift before the Lord. Will the Lord in His examination of our stewardship of this gift be expecting very little or a whole lot? What did we share with you from **Luke 12:48**? **“To whom much has been given much is required.** There is no greater gift that the Lord can bestow upon us than the gift of salvation. He did not give us this gift for it to be put on a shelf or in a closet. THIS GIFT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO US SO THAT IT CAN BE PUT ON DISPLAY. THIS IS WHY THE RIGHTEOUS ARE CALLED THE “LIGHT OF THE WORLD.” OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS THE RECIPIENTS OF SALVATION IS TO PUT THAT SALVATION ON DISPLAY. WE OWE THIS TO THE LORD FOR HIS GRACIOUS GIFT.

We can put our salvation on display through proclamation, which is extremely important and must be pursued with energy. But there are other ways to put our salvation on display. There are other ways for us to let the world see what the Lord has given us through Christ.

Let us read **VV. 13-17** **“Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (14) As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, (15) but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; (16) because it is written, “you shall be holy, for I am holy.” (17) And if you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each man’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay upon earth.....”**

In the passage we just read we will see that we can put our salvation on display by **“fixing our hope.”**

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STEADFAST HOPE

Let us read **V. 13** **“Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”** “Gird” is a participle modifying “mind,” “sober” is a participle modifying “spirit,” so neither of these are the main verb. The main verb is “hope.” We are being commanded in light of our great salvation to hope. Because it is the command form the NAS has chosen to translate the verb **“fix your hope.”** In light of this great salvation that we have received the Lord is calling us to do something. That specific thing He is calling us to do is **“to fix our hope.”**

What is hope? Hope is the Christian’s attitude toward the future!! Hope is in it’s essence the same substance as faith. It is believing God. FAITH IS TRUSTING GOD FOR THE PRESENT. HOPE IS BELIEVING GOD FOR THE FUTURE. Faith accepts, hope expects. Faith appropriates, hope anticipates.

What exactly are we being called to trust God for in the future? Look again at the verse. We are to **“fix our hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”** Notice we are not to “fix our hope on the revelation of Jesus Christ “ but rather **“on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”** We are not to fix our hope on the fact that the revelation of Jesus Christ will occur, but rather we are to fix our hope on the fact that at the revelation of Jesus Christ we will be the recipients of grace.

When the Lord Jesus appears and catches the church up to be with Him and we become glorified let us not think that we have in anyway earned that standing. We will be fashioned into the very likeness of Christ as an expression of the Grace of God..... We were saved from the penalty of sin by the grace of God. We are being saved from the power of sin by the grace of God. We will be saved from the very presence of sin by the grace of God. There is absolutely nothing that we can contribute to our salvation in any way at any time. Again, as I have already said, we owe it to God in light of His gift to **“fix our hope.”**

Notice the adverb “completely.” We are to fix our hope on the grace to be brought to us at the revelation of Jesus Christ “completely.” Once for all without equivocation or doubt. Abraham is a man who makes the concept of fixing our hope “completely” come alive. The Lord had promised Abraham that he would be the father of a great nation. This was done repeatedly throughout the life of Abraham. And yet we find that when Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90 years old Abraham and Sarah still had not had a child. How did Abraham handle this? Look at **VV. 18-20** **“In hope against hope he believed, in order that he might become a father of many nations, according to that which had been spoken? “Shall your descendants be.” (19) And without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah’s womb; (20) yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief, but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God.”** Abraham had fixed his hope completely on God’s promise.

In light of God’s promise to us concerning the grace that is to be brought to us at the revelation of Jesus Christ may we also become strong in faith and give the glory to God without equivocation or doubt. **HOW WILL WE IN FACT KNOW IF WE ARE IN FACT DOING THIS?**

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WE ARE GIVEN SOME HELP IN THIS PASSAGE. THERE ARE A COUPLE OF THINGS THAT SHOULD ACCOMPANY THIS FIXING OF HOPE. IN FACT THERE ARE TWO THINGS. Both of them introduced by participles. The first participle that we see is “gird” and the second is “keep sober.”

GIRD YOUR MINDS

Let us read **verse 13** “**Therefore, gird your minds for action....**” In the East they wore long robes, and when they would want to move quickly they would pull up their robe through their belt which was around their waist so that they could move more easily. This was called girding.

We see this in **Exod. 12**. The children of Israel were told to gird their loins and keep their sandals on. When people looked at the children of Israel on the night before the passover they looked like a people that were getting ready to go on a trip. They did not look like a people that had settled down in this world for the long haul.

When we fix our hope on the grace that will be brought to us at the revelation of Jesus Christ we should look like people who are preparing for a wonderful trip with an eternal glorious destination. We should not look like people who seem have settled down in this world, whose affections are centered in this world.

This world is not our home brothers and sisters. We are aliens and we are passing through. May God give us the grace not to look like people whose hopes rest in the things of this world rather than in the world to come. Peter’s exhortation to us in this passage is very similar in essence to the exhortation of the Apostle Paul’s in **Col. 3:2-4** “**Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. (3) For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (4) When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.**”

I believe that the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ at least in America has lost the look of this hope. They, I believe for the most part, look like the world around them. The church is spending their resources, time, and energies for the most part, in the pursuit of the pleasures and comforts of this world.

When Christians are unable give their monies for the advancement of the gospel and the building up of Christ’s church because of undisciplined consumption, when Christians are unwilling to make long term commitments to ministries to God’s people or the community on the weekends because it interferes with recreation. When Christian people begin to look at their retirement as a time when they will finally be able to do all the things they have always wanted to do in respect to the things of this world and put the thought of full time ministry out of their minds. When these things are the norm for the church and not the exception the church is in great trouble, the cause of Christ is suffering but most of all God is not being served. LET US LOOK AT THE SECOND PARTICIPLE.

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KEEPING SOBER

Let us read **V. 13** again, “**Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober in Spirit.....**” What does keep sober in spirit mean? Metaphorically it means not to be intoxicated with the world. This phrase is simply building on what Peter stated when he told us to “**gird our minds for action.**”

We need to be mentally alert. We need to understand that if we do not stay vigilant we will invariably be swept into the course of this world’s system.

Rather than reckless self indulgence that characterizes the world we need to be sober minded. In response to what God has given us we need to live in anticipation of the hope of the grace that is to come.

1 Peter 3:15 is a very familiar passage of Scripture it says, “**But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.**”

Notice the words “**always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account**” Of what? “**Of the hope that is in you.**”

IF WE HAVE FIXED OUR HOPE ON THE GRACE THAT IS TO BE BROUGHT TO US AT THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST IT SHOULD BE VISIBLE TO PEOPLE WHO ARE AROUND US.

CONCLUSION

We need to put our salvation on display. We can do this not only by proclamation but we can do this by letting people see our hope. Which is to be at the very center of our lives.

Our hope will in fact become visible if we would “gird up our minds for action,” giving a very visible image to the world that we are about to take a trip and we consider heaven to be our final destination.

Our hope will in fact become visible if we would be “sober minded,” giving to the world a clear picture how serious we take God’s promise to pour out upon us grace at the revelation of Jesus Christ.