

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

Hope, Holiness and Honor

1 Peter 1:13-17

Part Two

We have been given a glorious treasure. A treasure that far exceeds in value anything that this world can offer us. This treasure is our salvation. By the grace of God we have passed from spiritual death to spiritual life. By the grace of God we have passed from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light. By the grace of God rather than having the wrath of God abiding on us we have become objects of his mercy with the hope of heaven rather than the certain judgment of hell.

As the recipients of this precious gift we have become responsible as God's children to manage it for his glory. It is our responsibility as his children not to hide it away as if we are ashamed of it, but rather to put it on display.

When people typically think of putting salvation on display they think of proclamation. They think of our responsibility to proclaim the MESSAGE of the gospel and that is certainly very important. But equally as important is displaying the POWER OF THE GOSPEL. Showing the world the transforming power of the gospel.

In the passage we are studying in **1 Peter** we will see three different ways that the power of the gospel can be displayed to the world. Let us read **1 Peter 1:13-17**. Last week we considered the first way, by manifesting a LIVING HOPE OR FIXED HOPE. We saw this in **V. 13**. When people look at our lives they need to see us getting everything that is in the way out of the way in light of the **“Grace that is to be brought to us at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”** When people look at us they need to see a people who look like they are going on a trip. They need to see the power of the gospel go break the hold that the things of this world has on those who are of this world.

We are now ready to go on. How else can we as good stewards of the gospel of Jesus Christ display it's power?

HOLINESS

We can demonstrate the power of the gospel to ourselves and the world around us through the practice of personal holiness. Showing the world the power of the gospel to break the hold of sin on our lives.

When we come to Christ and place our faith and trust in Him we become God's children. **John 1:12** makes this very clear, **“But as many as receive Him to them gave He power to become the sons of God even to them that believe on His name.”** This is not new information for us. It is glorious information but it is not new information. However, though this is not new information, it does have certain important ramifications in regard to our personal holiness.

Children will invariably manifest the characteristics and nature of their parents. It is not very difficult as a child grows and as we watch them develop, to be able to tell which child belongs to which parent.

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With this in mind let us read **V. 14** “**As obedient children**” This is the way NAS reads but the Greek literally reads, “**children of obedience.**” Another way of referring to Christians would be what? “**CHILDREN OF OBEDIENCE.**” As children of god it is in our nature to be obedient. As the children of God it is in our nature to live holy lives. Every one of us here this morning who have come to Jesus and has received Him as our Lord and Savior; everyone of us who has been born again, every one of us who have experienced the new birth have become “**children of obedience.**” It is in our nature as children of obedience to live holy lives. It is in our nature as children of obedience to live lives pleasing to the Lord. And this reality becomes the foundation for our personal holiness. **BEING THE CHILDREN OF GOD OR IN OTHER WORDS “CHILDREN OF OBEDIENCE” IS THE FOUNDATION OF PERSONAL HOLINESS.**

Will there be times where we may choose to disobey? And the answer to that question is of course! Just by virtue of the fact that Peter is giving the command to be Holy to “children of Obedience” or Christians tells us very clearly that children of obedience or Christians may choose to disobey BUT THIS DOES NOT CHANGE THE FACT THAT OUR NATURE IS TO OBEY.

Would this imply that those who have not come to Christ and received Him as their Lord and saviour are therefore “children of disobedience”? And this is exactly right. In fact this is not only implied in the passage we are examining this morning it specifically stated in **Eph. 5:6.....** “**Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.**” Those who have come to Christ for salvation and deliverance from His wrath are “children of obedience” and those who choose not come to Christ for deliverance are “children of disobedience.”

It is the nature of those who have not come to Christ to disobey. It is the nature of those who have come to Christ to obey.

On the basis or foundation of who we are as “children of obedience” Peter issues a PERSONAL CALL TO HOLINESS. Holiness refers to a separation from sin. Let us again look at **VV. 14, 15** “**.... 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.**” As we examine this personal call to holiness we first of all note....

THE NEGATIVE DEMAND OF HOLINESS - “**.... do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance.**” The word “**conformed**” is the same word found in **Romans 12:2** when we are commanded not to be “**conformed**” to this world. The word is a compound participle and “denotes the practice of adopting for oneself a certain pattern or mold of life.” We are as the “children of obedience” being commanded not to adopt for ourselves a pattern or mold fashioned after our “former lusts.”.....

What does this mean? It means that before we came to Christ as children of disobedience we were slaves to our appetites. We would find ourselves yielding to the desires of the flesh. Not just a few of us but all of us. In our lives before we accepted Christ we allowed the pursuit of comfort to rule us. In our lives before we accepted Christ we allowed the pursuit of pleasure to rule us. In our lives before we accepted Christ we allowed the pursuit of the American dream to rule us.

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But all this was done in ignorance. Isn't this exactly what the verse tells us? Look at the verse **“which were yours in your ignorance.”**

But after hearing the gospel of Christ and embracing Christ as our Lord and saviour we were no longer to live for the things that the world offers but rather we are to live for Him who loved us and gave himself for us. The world continues to seek satisfaction by pursuing fleshly things which never satisfy we now as the “children of obedience” know better. We are therefore prepared for:

POSITIVE CALL TO HOLINESS - Let us look at **V. 15** **“But like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior.”** The holy one that called us is obviously speaking of God. God unlike ourselves has always been and always will be perfectly separated from sin.

As holy, He is separated from all that is morally impure and evil. As holy, He “loves all that is pure and good and hates all that is evil.”

God is calling us to be like Himself. As we, the “children of obedience” hear this call to holiness from the Lord there is a **THERE IS A VERY STRONG MOTIVATION TO RESPOND TO THIS CALL THAT WE FIND IN V. 16.....“because it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy.”** We find this quotation in **Lev. 11:44, 19:2, 20:7, 20:26.....** This repeated statement throughout the Old Testament and also found in the New Testament provides the MOTIVATION FOR PERSONAL HOLINESS.

THE DOMINANT COMPELLING REASON FOR HOLINESS IS OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH A HOLY GOD. When we are in close association with God we will find that this is the natural outflow of our lives. Turn in your Bibles to **Isaiah 6:1-5.** Don't fool yourself into thinking that it is possible to enjoy a relationship with the Lord and not be separating yourself from sin. Don't fool yourself into thinking that it is possible to enjoy a relationship with the Lord and still be driven by your lust or appetites for the things of this world. (Peter and his relationship with Christ **Luke 5:28**).

As we would no longer live as the world lives for the things of the world and would live our lives for the Lord setting ourselves apart to accomplish His will and purposes will result in us living Holy lives. This is a dramatic manifestation of our salvation and we need to put it on display. **1 Peter 2:12** says, **“Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evil doers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.”**

Not only do we discover that we can put our salvation on display by fixing our hope on the grace to brought to us at the revelation of Jesus Christ, but we can also put our salvation on display by living holy lives, lives separated from sin. **HOW ELSE?**

HONOR

The power of the gospel can also be seen through the manifestation of a dynamic relationship with our living Lord which is characterized by HONOR.

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Let us look at **V. 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.**” The NIV reads differently and conveys I believe in a more understandable way what Peter is trying to convey. Let us read **V. 17** from the NIV. “**Since you call on a Father who judges each man’s work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.**” (The Christians filial relation will not preclude their heavenly Father from discerning in their lives that which is inconsistent with His yearning for their holiness.)

PRESENT EMPHASIS - The fear that is being enjoined in this verse is a present fear for the here and now. Look at the end of **V. 17** “**conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay upon earth.**” This is not a fear that is to be present because of something future, but rather because of something present. I believe the point is very much the same point that **Heb. 12** makes concerning discipline. **Heb. 12:5-10** “**And you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, Nor faint when you are reproved by Him; (6) For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives.” (7) “It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? (8) But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. (9) Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them, but He disciplines us for our good that we may share His holiness.”**

FUTURE CONCERN - I believe Peter’s primary reference is to God’s present dealings with His saints in the development of holiness in their lives. But it is also true that God’s judgment of the believer will find final application at the judgment seat of Christ (**1 Cor. 3:11-15; 2 Cor. 5:10**). **That judgment will not be to determine their salvation but their future reward.**” We need to understand that the faithful or unfaithful work of saints will make a difference both here and hereafter.

We need to consider for a moment the word fear. The attitude advocated is not the cringing dread of a slave before an offended master, but the reverential awe of a son toward a beloved and esteemed father, the awe that shrinks from whatever would displease and grieve him. The NIV correctly interprets by adding the qualifying adjective, “reverent.” We know that our heavenly father will not sit passively by allow us to live our lives in an unholy manner but this is tempered with the knowledge of merciful dealings with us. **HE MAY DISCIPLINE US IN LOVE BUT WILL NOT DESTROY US IN HIS WRATH.**

It is a wonderful thing to witness a son or daughter who manifests this healthy kind of fear of their parents. And it is a wonderful thing for the people of this world to see this same kind of honor in respect to our relationship with our heavenly father.

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CONCLUSION

We have been given a wonderful treasure it is our responsibility to display it. We certainly can do this through the proclamation of the gospel, but equally as important is the display of the power of the gospel.

Within the passage we have examined this the last two weeks we have seen three different ways that the power of the gospel can be displayed.

THROUGH OUR DISPLAY OF HOPE, HOLINESS, AND HONOR.

Let us as the proclaimers of the gospel of Christ shine for his glory!!!!