**1 Peter: Live as Obedient Children**

*1 Peter 1:13-17*

**Context**

**1 Peter 1:13-17**—*Therefore, having girded your minds for action, being 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, not being 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 conduct;****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 one’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your sojourn,*

Through the first 12 verses of Peter’s epistle, he speaks of the greatness of our salvation. It is because of this incredible blessing that we not only bless God (**v3**), but live in light of its truths. We are commanded to respond in a way consistent with the privileged position that God has placed us. We have obligations and responsibilities that are placed upon us so as to live separate and distinct from the world. We think, act and respond different from the world because we have a new nature. We are to live holy lives because the One who saved us is holy. And as His children, we are to represent Him well in every way pleasing Him.

Peter gives us several commands that are Godly responses to our eternal salvation.

**Right Responses to our Salvation**

1. **Fix Your Hope**

**1 Peter 1:13***—Therefore, having girded your minds for action, being sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

1. *Therefore* is a transition from descriptive statements about our salvation to application
   1. What follows in the Greek are commands
   2. Our response is to be decisive and military-like
2. Three phrases are identified here:
   1. *Mind for action*—prepare or “gird up”
      1. Tightening a belt; cinching up a cord; tying something down
      2. Gathering up your robe to run quickly
      3. The metaphor is used here of the mind—IOW, discipline your thoughts
      4. Same idea with the armor of God metaphor

**Ephesians 6:14**—*Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness*

* 1. *Keep sober* [in spirit]
     1. *To be sober, to be calm and collected in Spirit; to abstain from wine (keep sober)[[1]](#footnote-2)*
     2. Believers are to have self-control and spiritual steadfastness through a clarity of mind and discipline of heart
  2. *Fix your hope*
     1. To wait for salvation with joy and full confidence[[2]](#footnote-3)
     2. Hopefully to trust in

1. Peter identifies this blessed hope earlier in the text:

**3***Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

**4***to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,*

**5***who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

1. Hope—the Christian’s attitude toward the future[[3]](#footnote-4)
   1. Hope and faith have similar meanings and both are trusting God

**v21**—*who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.*

**Romans 5:1-2***—Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,****2****through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.*

**Galatians 5:5***—For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.*

**Hebrews 11:1***—Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

* 1. Faith is trusting God in the present
  2. Hope if trusting God for the future

**Acts 24:14**—*But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets;****15****having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.****16****In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience both before God and before men.*

**Titus 1:1-2**—*Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness,****2****in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago*

**Titus 3:4-7**—*But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared,****5****He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,****6****whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,****7****so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

* 1. Faith appropriates what God has already said and done in His revealed Word, and hope anticipates what He will yet do, as promised in Scripture.[[4]](#footnote-5)

1. *Fix your hope completely*
   1. *Completely—*fully or perfectly without wavering[[5]](#footnote-6)
   2. Believers are to believe what God has said without equivocation. We are not to half-heartedly trust; we are to fully trust all of His promises.
   3. It is a settled hope
   4. OT example of Abraham—the father of faith (**Romans 4:16-20**)
2. Hope is the grace to be brought
   1. Grace is what saves us
   2. Grace is what transforms us
   3. Grace is what will glorify us
   4. In the Greek, the absolute assurance of a future event happening would be referred to as if it already occurred
3. *Revelation of Jesus Christ* 
   1. *Revelation* (apokalupsei)—unveiling
   2. His second coming

**Revelation 1:1a**—*The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place*

**7***Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.*

* 1. We are to look for and long for His return

**Titus 2:11-14**—*For the grace of God has appeared,bringing salvation to all men,****12****instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,****13****looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,****14****who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.*

* 1. As amazing as the phenomena of Christ’s return, the focus here is on the grace that God gives to unworthy sinners. This grace that saved and this grace that will be brought to them.

1. **Be Holy as He is Holy**

**1 Peter 1:14-16**—*As obedient children, not being 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 conduct;****16****because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”*

1. Genuine hope results in holiness (purity of life)
2. The holiness of God is a central characteristic of who He is

**Isaiah 6:2-3**—*Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.****3****And one called out to another and said, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory.”*

**Revelation 4:8**—*And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come.”*

1. Anticipating the future eternal blessings and seeing our King, motivates us to live in holiness

**1 John 3:3**—*And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*

1. *Obedient children*—the emphasis here is on obedience. Meaning: every true child of God is characterized by obedience

**John 8:31-32**—*So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine;****32****and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”*

**Romans 6:17***—But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,*

**1 John 5:2-3***—By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments.****3****For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.*

1. The converse is true as well—unbelievers are “sons of disobedience”

**Ephesians 2:1-2***—And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,****2*** *in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.*

**John 3*:20****—For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.*

**Luke 6:*46****—Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?*

1. That said, there are times when disobedience breaks believers’ patterns of obedience[[6]](#footnote-7)

**Matthew 18:15**—*If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.*

**Hebrews 12:1***—Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*

**1 John 1:8-10***—**If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.****9****If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.****10****If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.*

* 1. Our redeemed souls reside in fleshly bodies
  2. Therefore the command to be obedient
  3. Obedience is the inevitable result of salvation

**Ephesians 2:10**—*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*

1. In our holiness, we are not to be conformed to the former lusts
   1. *Conformed—*shaped by or fashioned after

**Romans 12:2**—*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

* 1. *Former lusts—*desires/thoughts that are sinful; uncontrolled appetites, sensual impulses, all other unrighteous motivations and urges that compel the unregenerate*[[7]](#footnote-8)*
     1. The unbeliever/unregenerate know nothing else
     2. It is their nature to think and live according to the flesh (**Ephesians 4:17-19**)
     3. Not so with believers

1. We set our minds on things above

**Colossians 3:1-10**—*Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.****2*** *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.* ***5****Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.****6****For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience,****7****and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.****8****But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.****9****Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices,****10****and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him*

1. *Like the Holy One who called you, be holy in all your behavior*
   1. Jesus says we are to be perfect, as our Father in heaven is perfect

**Matthew 5:48***—Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

* 1. Although we will not be sinless on this side of eternity, we are to have as our goal holiness
  2. God has given us all the means to accomplish such a goal: A new nature, His Word, His Spirit, His church

1. The standard of holiness was first introduced to the people in the OT
   1. Notice Peter is telling them *because it is written*
   2. Then the quote from **Lev 11:44; 19:2 and 20:7**
   3. You shall be holy, for I am holy
   4. That truth is repeatedly reinforced in the OT
   5. He follows up with the reason for you to be holy because…I am the Lord your God

(**Lev 19:1-2; 3, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 25, 28, 30-32, 34, 36-37,** et. al.)

* 1. **Point:** the reason they are to be holy is because of the relationship and association with the Living God. They were called to love and obey their loving Father as we today are called to do no less.

1. **Conduct Yourself in Fear**

**1 Peter 1:17***—And if you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your sojourn*

1. We respond to the Lord with reverence, awe, and respect

**Proverbs 9:10***—The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*

**14:26-27***—In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, And his children will have refuge.* ***27****The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, That one may avoid the snares of death.*

**15:33***—The fear of the Lord is the instruction for wisdom,  
And before honor comes humility.*

**Ps 19:9***—The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether.*

**2 Corinthians 5:11***—Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences.*

**1 Peter 2:17***—Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.*

1. We address God as Father as the Scripture tells us

**Matthew 6:9**—“*Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.*

**Galatians 4:6***—Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”*

**Romans 8:15***—For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”*

1. We fear God (in part) because He is the judge
   1. Just because He is our Father and we have the kindness of His love extended to us, we do not forget who He is
   2. During our time on earth, we conduct ourselves in holiness

**1 Corinthians 3:10-15**—*According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.****11****For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.****12****Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,****13****each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work.****14****If any man’s work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward.****15****If any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*

**2 Corinthians 5:9-10**—*Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.****10****For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

* 1. The judgment of God is not limited to the future but also to the present

**1 Peter 4:17**—*For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?*

**Hebrews 12:5-12**—*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; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?****10****For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness.****11****All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.* ***12****Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble*

* 1. There are times when the disciple is administered by God through His church and other believers (**Matthew 18:15-20**)

**Galatians 6:1-2**—*Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.****2****Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.*

**Conclusion**

The holiness, justice, and disciple of our Father is accompanied by His love, mercy and grace. We never sacrifice one of His attributes for another. He is fully just and holy and at the same time fully loving, merciful and kind. Knowing these things, “…what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, **12**looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God…” (**1 Peter 3:11b-12a**).

**1 Thessalonians 2:10-12***—You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers;****11****just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children,****12****so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.*

**Homework:** Memorize **1 Peter 1:1-17**

**Source**

Most of the message and notes come from:

Richard W. DeHaan*, Good News for Bad Times: 1 Peter*

R.C.H. Lenski, *The Interpretation of I and II Epistles of Peter, the three Epistles of John, and the Epistle of Jude*

John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, 1 Peter*

# John MacArthur, Hope, Holiness, and Honor, Oct 9, 1988, 1 Peter 1:13-17 [www.gty.org](http://www.gty.org)

Jerome H Smith*, The New Treasure of Scripture Knowledge*

[www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org)

1. Blue Letter Bible (Strong’s) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. MacArthur Commentary, 62. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Strong’s [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Ibid, 66. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. Ibid, 67. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)