

“An Appeal For Holiness”
1 Peter 1:13-25
3/20/22
Message 2

Introduction

- Title of the Message is: “An Appeal For Holiness”

- **Illustration – From the Reader’s Digest 1/84**

- **A California driver’s license examiner**
 - Talked about a teenager who had just driven an **almost perfect test**.
 - He made his only mistake... Said the examiner,
 - “When he stopped to let me out of the car.
 - After breathing a sigh of relief, the boy exclaimed, ‘I’m sure glad I don’t have to drive like that all the time!’”
- **NOW I just wonder how many Christians feel the same way about Holiness**
 - It’s just something have to do at church
 - When I am around other Christians
 - BUT as soon as I am not around the “Examiner” other Christians I can “Drive” or live the way I want to...
 - As Believers Holiness must be
 - A way of life – an Inside job
 - There is a DEEP desire to Please the Lord –
 - To Live as He has called us to live

- We can't just turn it on and turn it off
- It has to be something we ARE – even when we are Alone

• **This is our Subject today – “An Appeal For Holiness”**

- **In our first message Peter emphasized WALKING in HOPE**
 - Remember the Early Church has just been thrown into persecution
 - One of the Most notable was Nero
 - His goal was to stamp his image upon the Roman empire
 - In order to do that he needed to reconstruct the city
 - So he secretly hired men to set the city on fire one NIGHT –
 - After much of it burned – The backlash was overwhelming
 - So He Blamed it on the Christians
 - The Christians were an easy target for several reasons
 - They talked about the Fires of Judgment
 - They were considered Anti- Roman because they would NOT declare Caesar as Lord – But Christ
 - Once a year a pinch of incense on the altar – Christian would not do this
 - They were accused of being Cannibals because of Communion – eating

- The body & drinking the Blood
- Accused of destroying families
 - Because as people were being saved families were being ripped apart
 - The saved Husband or wife would not want to participate in the Pagan Rituals & immoral practices – anymore!!
- So there was already a Hatred toward the Christians in the Roman empire –
 - But with his Accusations Nero brought it to another level
 - An Estimated 6 MILLION Christians were martyred under his reign
 - Some were...
 - Some Dipped in wax – Human Torches
 - As he road around naked in his chariot
 - Some Fed to Lions
 - Some Made to face the Gladiators for Sport
- **So - this is the backdrop to Peter's Letter –**
 - To Encourage Them
 - Keep your EYES on Jesus – There is a LIVING HOPE – Salvation
- **Today Peter's emphasis is WALKING in HOLINESS**

- **This Makes sense**

- We're Saved headed to Heaven
- We should now act like it

1 John 3:2–3 (NKJV)

2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

- **Holy**

- The Greek Word is – Hagios

- **Means:**

- Holy, Pure, Dedicated, Consecrated = SET APART

- **NOW it is not easy to live in this world and maintain a holy walk.**

- The anti-God World is always pressing against us, trying to force us to conform.
- So this morning 3 wonderful truths in An Appeal For Holiness
 - The Requirement Of Holiness vs. 13-16
 - Recognize Our Accountability To God vs. 17-21
 - The Responsibility to LOVE One Another vs. 22-25

The Requirement Of Holiness vs. 13-16

- **First: The Preparation That Is Needed v. 13**

- **1st Therefore v. 13a**

1 Peter 1:13 (NKJV)

13 Therefore *gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*

- Always ask - Why it's Therefore...?
- In light of our LIVING HOPE - Salvation
- Live as you are called

○ **2nd Gird your loins of your mind v. 13b**

1 Peter 1:13 (NKJV)

13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, *be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*

- **Living the way God wants us to means**
 - We must gird up the loins of our mind.
- **What does this Means?:**
 - The idea in this phrase is to prepare for action
 - Much like the phrase “rolling up your sleeves.”
 - Refers to long Oriental robes that were drawn up and belted at the waist when one wanted to walk, run or work with energy.
 - **To get rid of loose and sloppy thinking**
 - Instead of letting our thoughts, purpose and decisions hang loose, we are to be decisive (opposite of idleness).
 - Bring your mind under control – God’s Control
 - To control what you think about, those things you decide to set your mind upon.

- **In Peter's Time**

- As they went out into a hostile world
- Believers were to avoid panic and distraction.
- In times of persecution, there is always the tendency to become rattled and confused.
- A girded mind is one that is strong, composed, cool, and ready for action.
- It is unimpeded by the distraction of human fear or persecution.

- **IN Our (ALL) Time**

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Philippians 4:8 (NKJV)

8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

- **3rd Be Sober v. 13c**

1 Peter 1:13 (NKJV)

*13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, **be sober**, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*

- **Spiritual Sober-Mindedness**

- Steadfastness
- Self-control
- Clarity of mind, and moral decisiveness.

- *Unknown; “The sober Christian is correctly in charge of his priorities and not intoxicated with the various allurements of the world”*

- **Lesson**

- People can become intoxicated by their Circumstances
 - Their whole outlook is determined by what is going on
 - Their Lives controlled by emotions –
 - Their behavior is influenced by whatever emotion has control of them
 - Fear
 - Anxiety
 - Anger
 - Doubt
 - Depression
 - They are Literally intoxicated by their emotions
- Examples
 - Some are Drunk with Anger
 - Always uptight about something
 - It comes out in their speech
 - Negative / Cutting / Abusive / Degrading
 - Some Are Drunk with Bitterness

- Comes out in ALWAYS complaining
- Tearing People down (gossiping)
- In an attempt to make themselves feel better
- Some are Drunk with Worry / Anxiety
 - Always freaking out over things
 - Never relaxed –
 - Always over analyzing every situation
 - They are constantly playing the what IF games
- Peter says – Don't be controlled by your emotions – But think rightly
 - Don't allow those emotions to control your outlook or your actions
 - The Word Of God must RULE our thinking
- **4th Fix your hope completely on the GRACE given BY JESUS**

1 Peter 1:13 (NKJV)

13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

- I LOVE THIS –
 - Instead of being caught up in some emotional havoc Freaking out over this or that – REST
 - Rest in the hope that is yours in Christ
 - In other words – Keep looking towards Jesus – Heaven

- Rest in GRACE
- Importance of Grace
 - Is for the PAST
 - When we first gave our lives to Jesus
 - He forgave our sins
 - It is also for the PRESENT
 - Where we live each moment standing in His grace (Romans 5:2)
 - It is also for the FUTURE
 - When grace will be brought to us.
 - God has only just begun to show us the riches of His grace.

• **Second: The Problem To Be Faced v. 14**

1 Peter 1:14 (NKJV)

14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;

- **1st As Obedient Children**
 - We Want to be Obedient Children
 - SO DO NOT indulge in the sins which characterized are former life.
 - DON'T GO BACKWARDS
 - If we conform to the ungodly world
 - We are denying our heavenly character.

- So DON'T Do the things you did in the days of your ignorance
 - PUT THEM AWAY
 - HOW?!

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV)

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

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

• **Third: The Pattern We Are To Follow v. 15**

1 Peter 1:15 (NKJV)

15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,

○ **1st The main idea behind holiness**

- It is the idea of “Apartness.”
 - God is Separate
 - Different from His creation
 - Both in His essential nature and in the perfection of His attributes.
 - God is OUTSIDE His Creation
- God calls us to come to Him and share His apartness.
 - He says to us, “Be holy, for I am holy.”
- We are to be in the world BUT of the World

John 17:14–16 (NKJV)

- 14** *I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.*
- 15** *I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.*
- 16** *They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.*

1 John 2:15–17 (NKJV)

- 15** *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*
- 16** *For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.*
- 17** *And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

2 Corinthians 6:14 (NKJV)

- 14** *Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?*

• **Fourth: The Proof Of Scripture v. 16**

1 Peter 1:16 (NKJV)

16 *because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”*

- **1st IT IS Written v. 16**
 - This carries GREAT AUTHORITY
 - **1st Our Lord used the Word of God to defeat Satan (Matt. 4:1-11 Eph. 6:17)**
 - The Written Word of God is a Sword for battle
 - NEVER forget that
 - The world is attempting to marginalize the Word of GOD
 - Never Forget God Word is POWER

Romans 1:16 (NKJV)

16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.*

- Speak it BOLDLY and MEEKLY – Let Him do his work
- **2nd The Word is a light to guide us in this dark world (Ps. 119:105 / 2 Peter 1:19)**
 - It will keep us on the SAFE PATH
- **3rd Food that strengthens us (Matt. 4:4 / 1 Peter 2:2)**
 - It feeds our souls
 - Strengthens our hearts
- **4th Water that Washes us (Eph. 5:25–27)**
 - Purifies us
- **5th The Word of God has a sanctifies us (John 17:17)**
- **6th Those who delight in God's Word, meditate on it, and seek to obey it will experience God's direction and blessing in their lives (Ps. 1:1–3).**
- **7th Remember**
 - The Word reveals God's mind
 - So we should learn it;
 - Reveals God's heart,
 - So we should love it
 - Reveals God's will
 - So we should live it.

- Our whole being—mind, will, and heart—should be controlled by the Word of God

▪ **8th The requirement of HIS WORD**

- Holiness is – Be Holy For I Am Holy
- Fundamental in both testaments (Leviticus 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:26)
- Set Apart

○ **2nd Lessons - On Holiness**

▪ **1st What does NOT MEAN to be HOLY?**

- 1st Grumpy
 - Now a lot of people have the wrong idea about the Word Holy
 - Many associate it with some kind of grimness.
 - They think of "holy" people as those who look as if they have sucked a Lemon / or have the bit into a rotten apple!!!
- 2nd Legalism –
 - Seeking to be Holy without God
 - Self - Righteous

▪ **2nd What it Does MEAN – 2 Things**

- 1st Wholeness
 - Root word for English word Holiness
 - The word "Wholeness."

- That is a Good Description – Wholeness = Being Complete
 - God is complete
 - He is perfect.
 - There is no blemish in God
 - He lives in harmony with Himself.
 - He is a beautiful
 - He is filled with joy and love and peace.
 - He lives in wholeness.
- Holiness for us
 - We are WHOLE
 - Peace
 - Well Being
 - Joy
- 2nd Be Different
 - Again The word for holy is hagios
 - Root meaning is different.
 - The Christian is hagios
 - Our thinking is different
 - Our Passions & Pursuits are different
 - Our PRIORITIES are different

- Those differences are going to be measured in the way that He lives His life

- *Moody; "A holy life will produce the deepest impression. Lighthouses blow no horns; they only shine."*
- *Ravenhill; "The greatest miracle that God can do today is to take an unholy man out of an unholy world, and make that man holy and put him back into that unholy world and keep him holy in it."*

Recognize Our Accountability To God vs. 17-21

First: The manner in which our heavenly Father judges v. 17a

1 Peter 1:17 (NKJV)

17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;

○ **1st Impartially**

- We must understand that we call on a God who shows no partiality
 - Who will so judge our conduct.
 - This makes a sober, holy walk all the more important.
- This is another way of saying, "if you are a Christian."
 - *The believer who knows God and that He judges the works of all His children fairly, will respect God and His evaluation of his life, and long to honor his heavenly Father.*

Second: The meaning of our accountability 'conduct yourselves in fear.' v. 17b

1 Peter 1:17 (NKJV)

17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, **conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;**

○ **1st Fear**

- Is a respect for God Himself and His holiness
 - Reverence
 - FEAR = FEAR
 - Yes He is our Abba Father
 - But Never forget He is also a Holy and Righteous God – Who MUST judge
 - *Wiersbe; “In view of the fact that the Father lovingly disciplines His children today, and will judge their works in the future, we ought to cultivate an attitude of godly fear. This is not the cringing fear of a slave before a master, but the loving reverence of a child before his father. It is not fear of judgment (1 John 4:18), but a fear of disappointing Him or sinning against His love. It is “godly fear” (2 Cor. 7:1), a sober reverence for the Father.”*

○ **2nd During the time of your stay upon earth - It affects us now!**

- “Stay” = KJV - Sojourn
 - Sojourn in the Greek means Resident Alien
 - AKA
 - Temporary
 - Just passing through
 - Don't Belong here

- Made for another world
- The Result should be
 - Make sure you are spending your time wisely
 - In FEAR means we will stand before a holy God and give an account one day
 - So why do we spend so much time of our time on earth chasing things that don't matter
 - Examples
 - Wealth
 - Materialism
 - Approval
 - Fame
 - Pleasure

• **Third: The MOTIVE for such accountability vs. 18-21**

- **1st The price of our salvation v. 18**

1 Peter 1:18 (NKJV)

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,

- Knowing that you were NOT redeemed with corruptible things:
 - The high call for godly living makes sense in light of the price that was paid for our redemption.
 - The precious blood of Jesus did not save us so that we could then live as if we were garbage.

- **2nd The Precious BLOOD of Christ - A lamb without blemish and without spot:**

- **7 Important Truths about the Precious Blood**

- **1st It is Precious because of it's Redeeming Power**

- The word redeem means to set free by paying a Price / a ransom
- The Law was our Tyrant and our Master –
 - The Law showed us the way to Holiness
 - But we could NEVER keep it
 - So the LAW condemns
 - So each & everyone of us was under the curse of the law & doomed
- BUT Christ has Redeemed us from the Curse of the Law

Galatians 3:13 (NKJV)

13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),

- He TOOK our SINS – GIVES us every lasting life – His Righteousness

- **2nd The Blood is Precious because it is the Blood of the Atonement**

- Atonement = AT-ONE –MENT
- OT - We are told in Lev.17:11 –
 - That it is the Blood that makes atonement for the soul

- Blood covered the Mercy Seat
- But had to be done every year
- In the NT = Tetelestai
 - AT-ONE-MENT
 - The Blood of Christ – Brings AT-ONE-MENT
- **3rd Blood is Precious because it cleanses us from Sin**

1 John 1:7 (NKJV)

7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

- It is the song of heaven,
 - “We have washed our robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”
- Spurgeon; “In a single moment those who were black as hell become white as heaven, through the application of the blood of sprinkling; for all sin disappears as soon as the blood falls on the conscience. That which the blood of bulls and of goats could not do, the blood of Jesus effectually accomplishes cleansing from all sin.”
- **4th The Blood is Precious because it Provides a Way of Access into the throne of God**

Hebrews 10:19 (NKJV)

19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,

- The Veil was rent – when the blood was shed –
- Went from No Access to Now Come Boldly

Hebrews 10:22 (NKJV)

22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

- **5th The Blood is Precious to us because it sets us apart**

- There are only two types of People today – those who are covered by the Blood and those who are not
- Egypt at PASSOVER
 - The Blood was the Distinguishing mark & still is
- His Blood SETS us APART

- **6th The Blood is Precious because it is the Blood of the New Covenant.**

- Passover – UPPER ROOM

Matthew 26:28 (NKJV)

28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

- New Covenant. - / Old Do / New Done - New ministry of the Spirit with in our hearts

Hebrews 13:20 (NKJV)

20 Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

- **7th The Blood is Precious because thru it we are made overcomers**

Revelation 12:11 (NKJV)

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

○ **3rd The Plan of God v. 20-21**

1 Peter 1:20–21 (NKJV)

20 *He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you*

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

- He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world:
 - The work of Jesus was not a plan developed late in the course of redemption.
 - It was foreordained before the foundation of the world, though it was made evident in these last times.
- For you who through Him believe in God:
 - The entire plan of redemption is for those who believe in God

The Responsibility to LOVE One Another vs. 22-25

• **First: Based on the purification of our souls v. 22**

1 Peter 1:22 (NKJV)

22 *Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,*

○ **1st Purified Souls**

- Saved – Set Apart
- We can't love each other, unless this is true- sincere, unhypocritical.
- Holy living is incomplete if it is not accompanied by love.

- To be a Christian means to have a sincere love of the brethren, but we are encouraged to exercise that love fervently
- **2nd We can love sincerely**
 - In a very real sense, we are saved in order to love all our fellow Christians.

1 John 3:14 (NKJV)

14 *We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.*

John 13:35 (NKJV)

35 *By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

- **3rd We can love Fervently**
 - Our love should be warm, wholehearted, with all our strength, earnest, unceasing, and pure.

• Second: Based on the POWER of God's Word vs. 23-25

1 Peter 1:23–25 (NKJV)

23 *having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,*
24 *because “All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away,*
25 *But the word of the LORD endures forever.” Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.*

- **1st Through the word of God which lives and abides forever:**
 - We are born again... through the word of God.
 - The Word became flesh...
- **2nd The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the LORD endures forever:**
 - Peter here quoted from Isaiah 40:6-8.

- The World may MOCK the Word
 - And they have
 - BUT it will Last Forever
- The word of the LORD certainly has endured.
 - It has survived
 - Centuries of manual transcription
 - Centuries of persecution
 - Centuries of ever-changing philosophies
 - Centuries of critics
 - Centuries of neglect both in the pulpit and in the pew,
 - Centuries of doubt and disbelief –
 - It is still, the word of the LORD endures forever!

Closing

- So Peter has Encouraged his readers with the persecution they faced with
 - A LIVING Hope – Salvation
 - An Appeal For Holiness
 - May we heed his advice