

“Four Essentials of Being Set Apart to God”

Text: 1 Peter 1:13-16 “Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy...”

Purpose: The purpose of this section is to compel these Christians to live lives that were set apart to God.

Proposition: God want me to live a life that is set apart to Him.

Interrogative: How can I live a life that is set apart to God?

Truth 1: My Mind: I need to understand that holiness starts with how I think: 1:13

“Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ...”

- **Wherefore:** On account of the things that I have just told you (all the blessings that you have in Christ)
 - **Seven Previously Stated Blessings that I enjoy as a Christian:**
 - **Blessing 1: God loves me and has personally worked in my life to bring me to repentance, faith, and salvation: 1:2**
 - **Blessing 2: I am spiritually alive now in Christ thanks to regeneration and the resurrection: 1:3**
 - **Blessing 3: I have a secured future in Christ, that does not have the corruptions that I face on this side of eternity: 1:4**
 - **Blessing 4: There is nothing that I can do or that can be done to me that can cause me to lose my position in Christ: 1:5**
 - **Blessing 5: The trials that I face in this world are temporary and serve redemptive purposes: 1:6**
 - **Blessing 6: God observes me as I go through trails of my faith, and He will appropriately reward me for my faithfulness to Him: 1:7**
 - **Blessing 7: The position that I enjoy in Christ today far surpass the blessings that Old Testament saints enjoyed prior to Christ’s redemptive work: 1:9-12**
- **Gird up the loins of your mind:** Prepare yourself for the battle by having a mind that is ready to think Biblically.
- **Be sober:** This is the summary of the way that we are to approach everything stated in this section. (**Self-controlled, circumspect, a stable mind**)
- **Hope for the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ:** Set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
 - **Six Future Blessings that we are to look forward to as Christians**
 - **The Blessing of a completed race: Hebrews 12:1** :Let us run with patience the race that is set before us...”
 - **The blessing of a glorified body: 1 Corinthians 15:51-57** “We shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye...this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality...then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory...”

- **The blessing of freedom from the terrible affects of the fall: Romans 8:21-23** “We know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body...”
- **The blessing of our eternal inheritance: 1 Peter 1:3-5** “He hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God...”
- **The blessing of our eternal reward: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27** “Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection...”
- **The blessing of unhindered fellowship with God and redeemed loved ones; 1 John 3:2** “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is...”

Truth 2: My Will: I need to understand that holiness will involve submitting my will to God’s will: 1:14 “As obedient children...”

Luke 9:62 “No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God...”

Luke 14:26-28 “If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple...”

- **As obedient children:** Submission of the will, but from a position of relationship.
 - **Creator:** Because He made us, we must to submit ourselves unreservedly to His design for our lives.
 - **King:** Because He is our King, there is no higher authority to whom we can submit, therefore, He deserves full submission.
 - **Judge:** Because He is our Judge, we must submit to His laws or face His judicial wrath.
 - **Lord:** Because He has purchased us by the death of His Son, we are responsible to submit fully to His wishes and invest our energies in His purposes.
 - **Father:** Because He is our Father, we should honor Him above all others, and glory in the privilege of such a precious relationship.

Truth 3: My Purpose: I need to understand that holiness is superior to worldliness:1:14 not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance...”

Three ways Holiness is Superior to Worldliness

- **Worldliness goes against my new nature: Not fashioning yourselves: Romans 12:2**
Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God...

- **At conversion we become new creatures, who have a new master, disposition, and purpose**
- **We are new creatures, yet not fully mature, and God transforms us, reshapes us, and matures us through His process of sanctification.**
- **When a Christian chooses to act in a worldly manner, He is choosing contrary to his own nature and the purposes for which God made him and saved him.**

- **Worldliness leaves me out of control: According to the former lusts:** Before you knew the Lord, you lived after your fleshly lusts

Ephesians 2:2-3 “Ye walked according to the course of this world...we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath...”

Galatians 5:24 “They that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts...”

2 Peter 2:18-22 “They allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning...it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire...”

- **Worldliness lacks a perspective rooted in reality: In your ignorance:** You were unaware of the desperation of your condition

Romans 3:12-18 “They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulcher; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes...”

Proverbs 4:18-19 “The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble...”

Truth 4: My Identity: I need to understand that holiness will call me to a God-centered life:

1:15 “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy...”

- As he: This command begins with God’s character
- Who has called you is holy: This command is rooted in His grace and authority
- So be ye holy: This command calls us to imitate Him
 - Set apart to honorable purposes.
 - Separated from sinful pursuits.
 - Set apart to live out His creative design for us.

Conclusion: God commands us to live lives that are set apart to Him! May we all think Biblically, submitting our wills to Him as obedient children, seeing the inferiority of a life lived for self and this world, and living God-centered lives for His glory!