

“Living Hope: The Hope/Holiness Connection”

1 Peter 1:13-21

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Main Idea: Hope in Jesus leads to holiness in conduct.

Hope Requires a Mind Poised for Action (verse 13)

1. The phrase “preparing your minds for action” is a vivid term that literally means, “girding up the loins of your mind.” This would be today’s equivalent of, “roll up the sleeves of your mind and get ready for mental exertion.”
2. Verse 13 also calls us to be “sober-minded.” We are to be clear-headed, not lazy and, but spiritually alert. Peter is teaching us that hoping in God isn’t something we drift into. We have to actively set our hope on Jesus. We have to engage our minds with the reality of the grace, favor and reward that will come to us when Jesus is revealed as the everlasting King.
3. This verse calls us to “set your hope fully” on Jesus. We are often guilty of having our hope “partially set on Jesus.” We put a little hope in Jesus but also a little hope in our good work, our kids, our job, in money, possessions, relationships, health, etc. We place our trust in the dying hopes of this world and believe that this world’s pleasures and successes are what really matter. This leads to spiritual dullness and laziness.

Hope Shapes Our Conduct (verses 14-17)

1. What we place our hope in shapes the way we live. We are not to be shaped or conformed to the way we lived as unbelievers. We are to imitate God—as he is holy, we are to be holy in all our conduct. God tells the truth, keeps his promises, loves justice, honors marriage, and is generous. Therefore, we should imitate God and do the same. As well, God is without sin, so we should actively put sin to death and be holy as he is holy.
2. Hope in Jesus is the basis for holy conduct. Hope in Jesus is what motivates a life of righteousness. Holiness is not just a list of do’s and don’ts. Holiness is hope in God in action. Holiness is living to please the One in whom we hope. If we ready our minds to actively think about all we have in Christ, if we focus our thoughts on the blessing and glory and reward that will come to believers when Jesus Christ is revealed, then we will want to obey God right now. Holiness won’t be a list of burdensome rules—it will be the overflow of hope.
3. Verse 17 tells us that our intimacy with God should never be an excuse for disobedience. God is our heavenly Father and yet we revere him as holy and awesome. To disobey him is a serious thing. This fills out our understanding of why

Peter called us to be “sober-minded.” Holiness isn’t a joke. Our conduct matters. It will be judged by a righteous, impartial God.

Hope is Sustained by Knowing (not just doing) (verses 18-21)

1. Verse 18 tells us that our holy conduct, our walking in the fear of God, is to be done knowing that God has ransomed us from our worthless, futile ways. The God to whom we will answer loves us so much that he ransomed or bought us out of the slavery to sin, not with gold or silver, but with the blood of his only Son.
2. Like verses 3-6, Peter is once again preaching the gospel to us. He knows our tendency is to place our hope in our own efforts at holiness. And so he says, “Be holy in your conduct knowing that God ransomed you.”
3. As we disciple others and teach fellow-Christians: we must never call people to holy conduct unless we start and end with the good news of salvation through the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins. If our hope is in our holiness, we have no hope. Our hope must be in the blood of Christ shed for our sins

Fellowship Starters:

1. Josh taught that verse 13 calls us to be clear-headed (“sober-minded”) and ready to exert ourselves mentally (“preparing your minds for action”). Where have you become spiritually lazy and apathetic in your spiritual life? What would repentance look like?
2. Is Jesus your only hope or just one among many hopes (i.e., hope in your job, money, possessions, relationships, good works, usefulness, health, etc.)? How can you make Jesus your dearest treasure and only hope?
3. What dying hopes of this world are shaping your behavior? How can hope in Jesus alone (His life, death and resurrection) motivate you to a life of holiness and righteousness?
4. What truths from 1 Peter 1:3-5;18-21 can you meditate on to sustain and enliven the hope you have in Christ?