

1 Pet. 1:13-16: Therefore, preparing your minds for action, & being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

Intro: In the first 12 verses of 1 Peter, we've seen parts of the greatness of our salvation in Christ: chosen, sanctified, cleansed, obedient, born again, living hope, an amazing inheritance, & we are guarded by God! Jesus Christ is mentioned 7 times in the first 12 verses: this great salvation comes to us through Christ. This is a great salvation that prophets & even angels long to look at. Be amazed at your great salvation because prophets & even angels longed to know what you have. Today, we begin to see the commands of God. & there are many commands in the rest of this book

Schreiner: The word "therefore" reaches back to all of verses 1-12. In the following verses the readers are exhorted to live a godly life. But all these exhortations are grounded in God's saving work as explained in verses 1-12. Believers are to obey because they are God's chosen pilgrims, because they have been begotten by the Father, because they have an untouchable inheritance, & because of the greatness of their salvation. God's commands are always rooted in his grace. Another way of putting this is to say that the indicative (what God has done for us in Christ) is always the basis of the imperative (how we should live our lives). To confuse the order here would be disastrous, & the result would be works righteousness instead of seeing holiness as the result of God's grace & power, as a response to the love of God in Christ. **GOSPEL!**

In view of your great salvation in Jesus Christ: pursue hope & pursue holiness!

1. Pursue Hope

1 Pet. 1:14: Therefore, preparing your minds for action, & being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

a. Set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ: 1) Hope is faith that looks forward – it's faith in God's promises for the future.

- **John Piper:** faith is our confidence in the word of God, & whenever that word has reference to the future, you can call our confidence in it hope. Hope is faith in the future tense.

- **Rom. 4:18-22:** In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰ No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness."

- **Heb. 11:17-19:** By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, & he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, ¹⁸ of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." ¹⁹ He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

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

2) The Holy Spirit commands that your hope be set fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ:

a) Set it fully: Set all your hope! What are your hopes set on for joy, happiness, peace, & satisfaction in the future? What are you tempted to set your hope on? Better circumstances; a husband; a wife; a better marriage; better home life; living somewhere else; that toy for Christmas; stuff (clothes, shoes, phones); winning games; what I will be when I grow up; school; job; church position; money; fame; praise of man (being liked by people – being popular); glory; girls; gold; success; food; etc. What are you tempted to set your hope on? “If I could just have this, I would be happy? If this was removed from my life, I’d be happy. If I just didn’t have to face this, I’d be happy?”

b) You are commanded here to place your hope fully on something that is not of this world!

- **V. 14:** set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ

It’s grace – a free gift! What grace will come to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ? The public, open, & cosmic declaration that you are not guilty, forgiven, justified (counted righteous), & adopted by God. You will be given a new, glorified body – no more sinful flesh, no more pain, sin, death, or decay. New capacities to fully enjoy God & His creation in ways you’ve never dreamed or imagined. Your inheritance kept for you! There’s new heavens & a new earth! & best & greatest of all, you get God – you see Jesus face to face! You will dwell in God’s presence forever where there’s fullness of joy & pleasures forevermore!

- **1 Pet. 3:18:** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God

- **Ps. 42:11:** Why are you cast down, O my soul, & why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation & my God.

- **Ps. 147:10-11:** His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the legs of a man, but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his mercy.

b. Setting your hope on the second coming of Jesus Christ will help you live well & suffer

well: “Soon & very soon, we are going to see the King!”; It won’t be long now! Short time! Parent illustration with child: “This will soon be over, & then we are going to eat ice cream.”

John Piper On John Bunyan (To Live Upon God That Is Invisible): He quotes 2 Cor. 1:9 where Paul says, “We had this sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God that raiseth the dead.” Then he says, “By this scripture I was made to see that if ever I would suffer rightly, I must first pass a sentence of death upon every thing that can be properly called a thing of this life, even to reckon myself, my wife, my children, my health, my enjoyment, & all, as dead to me, & myself as dead to them. The second was, to live upon God that is invisible, as Paul said in another place; the way not to faint, is to ‘look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.’” The phrase that I have fastened on for the title & focus of this study of Bunyan is the phrase, “to live upon God that is invisible.” He discovered that if we are to suffer rightly we must die not only to sin, but to the innocent & precious things of this world including family & freedom. We must “live upon God that is invisible.” Everything else in the world we

must count as dead to us & we to it. That was Bunyan's passion from the time of his conversion as a young married man to the day of his death when he was 60 years old.

c. Preparing your mind for action & being sober-minded are instrumental participles: An instrumental participle is a type of adverbial participle that indicates the means, method, or way by which the action of the main verb is accomplished. So how do you hope fully in the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ? 1) By preparing your minds for action & 2) by being sober-minded.

- **Schreiner:** The verse should read, “Set your hope fully on the grace . . . by preparing your minds for action & by being sober.”

d. You should prepare your minds for action in order to hope fully: V. 14: “preparing your minds for action” (KJV) “gird up the loins of your minds”

- **1 Ki. 18:46:** the hand of the LORD was on Elijah, & he gathered up his garment & ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

- **2 Tim. 2:7:** Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

- **Matt. 22:36-38:** You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart & with all your soul & with all your mind. This is the great & first commandment.

- **Mind & Emotions are important: John Piper:** The mind serves the heart – the affections – the emotions. Biblical thinking serves passionate hoping.

1) Fill your mind with truth: Reading; Word Of God; Bible books; Sermons; Debates; Rigorous study

2) Discipline your mind: Repent of mind sins; **2 Cor. 10:4-5:** For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ

e. You should be sober-minded in order to hope fully: V. 14: “& being sober-minded” This is the idea of being self-controlled & not over indulging in the things of this world, even lawful things. We can make an idol out of anything!

- **Schreiner:** There is a way of living that becomes dull to the reality of God, that is anesthetized by the attractions of this world. When people are lulled into such drowsiness, they lose sight of Christ's future revelation of himself & concentrate only on fulfilling their earthly desires.

- **John Piper (*Hunger For God*):** The greatest enemy of hunger for God is not poison but apple pie. It is not the banquet of the wicked that dulls our appetite for heaven, but endless nibbling at the table of the world. It is not the X-rated video, but the prime-time dribble of triviality we drink in every night. For all the ill that Satan can do, when God describes what keeps us from the banquet table of his love, it is a piece of land, a yoke of oxen, & a wife (Luke 14:18–20). The greatest adversary of love to God is not his enemies but his gifts. & the most deadly appetites are not for the poison of evil, but for the simple pleasures of earth. For when these replace an appetite for God himself, the idolatry is scarcely recognizable, & almost incurable.

- **1 Pet. 4:7:** The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled & sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.

- **1 Pet. 5:8:** Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

- **1 Cor. 9:24-27:** Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body & keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

In view of your great salvation in Jesus Christ: pursue hope & pursue holiness!

2. Pursue Holiness

1 Pet. 1:14-16: As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,¹⁶ since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

a. Be holy: V. 15: "you also be holy in all your conduct" To be holy is to be set apart & to be pure.

1) Be set apart: You are not like the world! You are set apart for God! You belong to God! You are not like everyone else! You are special! You are a child of God! Be who you are!

2) Be pure: pursue purity, pursue righteousness, turn away from all sin (mind, emotions, actions)

To be holy is to be like Jesus Christ! **1 Pet. 2:21:** For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

b. Be holy by being obedient children: V. 14: "As obedient children" You are children! You are born of God & adopted by God! You are His children twice over! **1 Pet. 1:22-23:** Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God

You want to learn to obey all that Jesus has commanded. Be who you are! Are there ways right now that you know you are not obeying Jesus?

c. Be holy by not being conformed to the passions of your former ignorance: V. 14: "do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance" [Before Christ & After Christ Testimony]

- **1 Pet. 4:3-5:** For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, & lawless idolatry. With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, & they malign you; but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

- **1 Cor. 6:9-11:** Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit

the kingdom of God. ¹¹ & such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ & by the Spirit of our God.

- **Eph. 4:21-24:** assuming that you have heard about him & were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life & is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ & to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ & to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness & holiness.

d. Be holy as those who are called by God: V. 15: “but as he who called you is holy” God has called you to be His child! This is God’s effectual, sovereign call! Be who you are!

- **1 Pet. 2:9:** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

e. Be holy because God is holy: Vs. 15-16: “but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’”

- **Lev. 19:2:** Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

John Piper: God’s holiness is his infinite value as the absolutely unique, morally perfect, permanent person that he is & who by grace made himself accessible – his infinite value as the absolutely unique, morally perfect, permanent person that he is.

- Children want to be as much like their father & their elder brother as they can be!

- **Col. 3:9-10:** Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices & have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

- **Rom. 8:29:** For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son

In view of your great salvation in Jesus Christ: pursue hope & pursue holiness!

Jesus hoped in God like no one else! Jesus was holy like no one else! Jesus died! Jesus rose! Jesus ascended! Jesus will come again! & when He does, oh what a glorious day that will be! So set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ & be holy!

Christ Jesus Came – Was Born Prepared
A Perfect Mind And Sober Dared
To Hope Supreme In God Nor Erred
But Spotlessly Obeyed And Shared
In God’s Pure Holiness Declared
Yet On That Cross The Son’s Not Spared
But Bore God’s Curse And Wrath Despaired
He Lost All Hope Because He Cared
To Give You Hope From Sin Repaired

He Rose Alive – Your Saved – Prepared
To Be Holy, Hope, And Squared
All Your Accounts With God Declared
By Faith Alone Your Righteous Paired
With Obedience Prepared
By His Spirit Strong – Not Scared
All Because Christ Was Not Spared
Oh With Christ There’s None Compared!