



Series Title: "Exiles: A study of the First Letter of Peter"

Date: January 23, 2022

Message Title: "Set Apart as Exiles"

Teaching: Neal McKinney

Reference: 1 Peter 1:13-19

Here's a brief outline of the passage:

- Be prepared for action (v. 13)
- How do we do this? (vv. 14-19)
 - Be sober-minded (NIV: self-controlled)
 - Set our hope on the grace of God
 - Anticipate the revelation of Jesus
 - Be obedient children
 - Be holy
- As exiles, we should live in fear (awe, wonder, reverence) toward God
 - He is the Father who judges impartially
 - He ransomed us from our former ways
 - He paid with the precious blood of Jesus

Message Notes:

Followers of Jesus Christ, those whose only hope is in him, have been brought out from one kingdom and into another through new birth. We are called to live in a culture that is not our own.

This should affect our priorities, where we put our energy, our time, our efforts, our money... everything. What in this world can we affirm, and what can we not?

Think, for instance about what you would grab, what you would do, if you had to evacuate. What would you leave behind? What is important enough to carry with you? Our holiness is shown in those priorities.

"Therefore" in verse 13 refers to the living hope which we have in Christ, to which we have been born again (vv. 3-5). It is because of this hope that we are to live in an entirely different

way than those not of the Faith. For we know that we will one day stand before God, in his presence and in his glory that will change us in every way.

In light of his justice and his mercy, we are to be prepared—"sober-minded"—focused and with singleness of purpose. But our human nature isn't wired that way. Our attention is distracted, pulled away from the Father who loves us. Yet we are told to set our hope solely upon the grace of God in Jesus Christ.

How often do I stop and think about that grace, about the goodness of God? as I go through the moments of my life, is God's loving kindness foremost in my mind?

This way of thinking helps us live as "obedient children" of our heavenly Father. The only way we can do this, though, is through the grace of God. As he changes our thinking, we find ourselves wanting to be holy.

"Holy" means "set apart from sin to God." Holiness comes as I clearly and seriously assess my priorities, my desires, my motivations in light of the holiness of Almighty God.

We struggle with our perception of God. We rejoice in God's grace... but we have problems with God's righteousness, his judgements. God has given us rules for living, and he wants us to obey those rules. We find them throughout the Bible—Old and New Testaments.

And when we don't obey, God disciplines us as a perfect, loving Father. For he knows what is best for us (after all, he made us!). The freedom we have in Christ is freedom from condemnation, and we must keep that in mind.

Questions for Reflection:

- What did you do as a child that got you into real trouble? What happened as a result of that?
- Did your parents ever have to “bail you out” of a tough situation? Was that because of your own disobedience? your carelessness? your lack of focus?
- Can you think of people you know or have known who demonstrate the “sober-mindedness” Peter describes here? What were they like?
- List the commands Peter gives in verses 13-15.
- What are Peter’s reasons for giving those commands?
- Do Peter’s reasons move you to obey those commands in your daily life?
- Holiness means “set apart from sin to God.” What does that say about your daily life?
- How does Peter’s call to holiness challenge you in your life—
 - At home?
 - At work?
 - In your community?
 - In your church?
- What attitudes or actions would Peter have you replace if you are to live in a holy way?

My Notes and Questions