

"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; 14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: 15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." (1Pe 1:13-16)

### Introduction:

The end of our faith is the salvation of our souls. Do not ever forget what the journey of faith is all about: not the body, not the world, not the universe, for these shall pass away and we receive a new heaven, a new earth, and new bodies for the habitation of our redeemed souls.

As Calvin said, the Gospel is so far above man that even the holy prophets did not understand their own writings, but diligently examined them and searched them. Neither do the angels understand, for they desired to look into this salvation.

Neither can the natural man understand, for eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered into the hearts of men the things that God has prepared for those that love Him, but they are revealed by His Spirit through the holy Scriptures, the writings of the apostles and prophets.

This salvation, though fixed on Jesus our Savior at the right hand of God, is revealed to us day by day in the ordinary affairs of life. As Solomon said, Pr 17:24 Wisdom is before him that hath understanding; but the eyes of a fool are in the ends of the earth. "Fear God, and keep his commandments" is the whole duty of man.

Do not let contemplation about the things you don't understand keep you from doing the ordinary things that you can understand. For instance, you have some children. Are they elect and will they all go to heaven? I don't know, and neither do you. But you do know that they are to be baptized and brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. You have something to do every day, and God will hold you responsible for what you do or don't do.

"Make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame is turned out of the way," the apostle put it. "How can the elect be turned out of the way?" They can't, but God isn't a fool, and he told us to walk straight and circumspectly. He will take care of election just fine and dandy. In the same way, He calls us to pray without ceasing, although all things are determined before the foundation of the world.

And so, now Peter turns to the mundane and the ordinary, after speaking of the most sublime things that you and I can imagine. Be Ye Holy, for I am holy. We will see the definition of holiness; The command to holiness, and The Work of holiness.

I. The definition of holiness.

- A. It is in our text: vs. 14: "Hope to the end for the salvation that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."
- B. It is a mind set that sees eternal life as the only business of this life: the salvation of the soul, trumps all other things.
- C. "What does it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his soul."
- D. Holiness is separation and dedication to God above all things.
  - 1. Separation and rejection of all lying and pretense and ignorance in doctrine and in life. We have a holy doctrine, revealed by God, confessed by the saints in all ages.
  - 2. Separation and rejection of all worldly lusts and former lifestyles.
  - 3. The whole of the conversation [way of life] now belongs to God, as our catechism states it in Number One. Or as Paul puts it, "Whatsoever you do in word and deed, do all to the glory of God." Or Col. 3: 16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." Notice the universals.

II. The Command to Holiness. "Be Ye Holy for I am Holy."

- A. The pattern is God Himself. We are come unto HIM.
- B. Through Jesus Christ, we come directly to God. Heb. 10:15-39
- C. The supper we are about to receive comes to us directly from God and is to be esteemed very highly, for in it our very sins are forgiven and true grace is offered to us.
- D. Set your affections on things above. Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. Ye are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.
- E. This is where holiness begins: in the heart: Hebrews 9:11-28

"11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; 12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*. 13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the

unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: 14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? 15 ¶ And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions *that were* under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. ... 24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, *which are* the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: 25 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; 26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: 28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation." (Heb 9:11-28 AV) See, the writer of Hebrews is saying the same thing. We are sanctified by hope, hope based upon the certain promises of God of our eternal and heavenly inheritance.

### III. The Work of Holiness.

- A. Gird up the loins of your mind: for work and warfare.
- B. There is a work of God required: Heb. 12:12-29
- C. I John 3:1-3 1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. 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. 3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.
- D. 1Co 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

#### Conclusion:

1. This work is first of all a work of the heart. Eph 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might [GIRD UP THE LOINS OF YOUR MIND by his Spirit in the inner man; 17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

2. In our bodies: Present your body as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable.....”
3. This work must be a labor in your families, church, close circles. Ephesians 5: 14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, [GIRD UP THE LOINS OF YOUR MIND] and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. 15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, 16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil
4. Before the whole world. Matt. 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” We live before our father in heaven, not on the earth. Our work is to direct the thoughts of men to heaven, to the only Savior, Jesus Christ.”