



SAVED BY GRACE - A HOLY RESPONSE 1 PETER 1:13 - 2:10

INTRODUCTION

Peter has explained that as a believer, you are privileged to have been born again into a new life that gives you a living hope. You have been chosen, forgiven, sanctified and given an inheritance which is incorruptible and can never be taken away. This new life is yours now, even as a sojourner in this world which is passing away. Now Peter makes it clear that the new life demands a new lifestyle — a holy lifestyle. Those who are chosen are called to be holy and to respond in a proper manner to the grace which has come to them through the preaching of the gospel and the power of the Holy Spirit. Salvation is a precious gift from God. How else could one respond to so great a salvation but to desire to live a life that is pleasing to God and imitative of His holiness? Peter now gives encouragement and instruction in the holy response.

OUTLINE OF 1 PETER 1:13 - 2:10

- I. Gird your mind - 1 Peter 1:13
- II. Guard your conduct - 1 Peter 1:14 - 2:1
- III. Grow spiritually- 1 Peter 2:2-10

I. Gird your mind - 1 Peter 1:13

A change of life cannot take place without a change of mind. The lifestyle will always follow the mindset. So Peter says, *Gird up the loins of your mind* (1 Peter 1:13). He is picturing for us the manner of dress in his day when men wore long, flowing robes. Whenever they needed to run or prepare themselves for strenuous work or for battle, they picked up the ends of their robes and tied them tightly around themselves. The message is that our minds should be prepared for action and for a strenuous life of obedience. Sojourners and pilgrims (1 Peter 1:1 and 2:11) must always be ready to move and never become too settled and comfortable in this world.

- A. Be sober - 1 Peter 1:13

A mind which is girded will also be sober. A sober mind is one which is able to reason clearly and is controlled by wisdom from above, not by worldly or fleshly desires and passions.

- B. Rest your hope on spiritual things -
1 Peter 1:13

A girded mind will rest its hope completely in Jesus

Christ and the grace and glory which will be realized when He comes again. We are not to rest our hopes in the passing pleasures and possessions of this world. We have a heavenly hope and a heavenly homeland as did the heroes of faith in Old Testament times. (See Hebrews 11:8-16.) Their lives proved the purity and priorities upon which their minds were set. What is your mind set upon above all else? How does this show in your life?

II. Guard your conduct - 1 Peter 1:14 - 2:1

The mind which is soberly set upon Christ should reflect obedience to God, holiness, reverence to God and a pure and selfless love for others.

- A. Be obedient - 1 Peter 1:14

The words "obedient children" in verse 14 are literally translated "children of obedience." Children of God are children of obedience and are to reflect the nature of their Father rather than their former ignorance. God, your Father, hates sin. In obedience to Him, because He is your heavenly Father, it is only natural for you to view sin the same way He does. All sin, especially sin in your own life, should be seen as loathsome. How is obedience to your Father and abhorrence of sin changing your lifestyle?

- B. Be holy - 1 Peter 1:15-16

Sinful behavior is to be replaced with holy behavior. Salvation is a blessing which compels God's children to consecrate themselves to God and turn from loving worldly things and worldly ways to loving God and the things He loves. Holy living usually requires a change in one's moral standard (*not conforming yourselves to the former lusts*, 1 Peter 1:14), and a change in the way one spends money and time. In the Old Testament, when God's people were called to consecrate themselves, they washed their bodies and their clothing. Believers are called to cleanse their attitudes and their actions. Later in this letter, Peter will explain what this means in practical terms. Here he gives two reasons believers should be holy.

- 1. God is holy - 1:15

God is our example and we are to imitate Him. No one has ever seen God, but we know what God is like through His Son, who humbled Himself and came to earth as a man, flesh and blood. God's holiness was revealed to us in the life of the Lord Jesus Christ and

we are called to *follow His steps* (1 Peter 2:21). Jesus told His followers, *I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you* (John 13:15). The apostle John put it this way, *The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked* (1 John 2:6 NASB). In order to fellowship with God, it is necessary to be like God to some degree because beings who are totally unlike cannot agree or have communion with one another. To what extent do you follow the example of Jesus in your daily life in order to enjoy blessed fellowship with your Lord and Maker?

2. It is written.... - 1:16

Peter quotes the command to be holy from God's law in Leviticus 11:44; 19:2 and 20:7. The command given to Israel is here applied to New Testament believers. Throughout history, God's privileged people have always been obliged to be holy.

C. Be reverent (conduct yourselves in fear) - 1 Peter 1:17-21

1. God is your Father and Judge - 1:17

As a believer, you are privileged to call upon God as your Father (Galatians 4:6). He is also your Judge (Genesis 18:25; Psalm 50:6; James 4:12). "This should lead to godly carefulness" ([The Wycliff Bible Commentary](#), Moody Press) in all your conduct here on earth. Reverence toward God should be influenced by the impartial nature of His judgment. He is not influenced by any external distinction such as rank, wealth, fame, or personal appearance. Therefore, conduct yourself with respect and honor for your Father, that your way of life may find approval with Him. Also, your stay on earth is fleeting and this world is not your real home (see 1 Peter 2:11). Your real and permanent home is with your Father; therefore, that relationship should be treated with the utmost of care.

2. Christ has redeemed you - 1:18-21

a. From a futile way of life - 1:18

The great plan and work of God for the redemption of your soul is further reason to reverence Him. Redemption means that a price has been paid to free you from bondage to sin and your former futile way of life. You have been purchased out of the marketplace of sin and set free, so that now *your faith and hope are in God* (1 Peter 1:21).

b. With His blood - 1:19

The price which was paid for your redemption was not silver or gold which are perishable things. Nothing

which is perishable could ever redeem an imperishable immortal soul. The price of your redemption was the precious and priceless blood of the perfect Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. There is no lesser price for man's redemption.

Leviticus 22:20-25 describes God's requirement of a perfect and unblemished sacrifice for sin. Jesus Christ is the perfect fulfillment of the Old Testament sacrifices. He is all that they foreshadowed. (See Isaiah 53:6-9; John 1:29; Hebrews 4:15; 7:26-28; 9:13-14).

c. It was God's plan before the foundation of the world - 1:20-21

Redemption through Jesus Christ was part of God's great plan from the very beginning. Salvation is in Him and always has been in Him. That salvation has been revealed at God's own perfect and predestined time for all who put their faith and hope in Jesus Christ. *God, who at various times and in different ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son* (Hebrews 1:1). Have you listened with open ears and open heart to the message of the Son? Have you put your faith and hope in the One whom God raised from the dead and glorified? It is only through Him that you may believe in God. *He is the image of the invisible God* (Colossians 1:15). It is through Him that you can know God (John 8:19).

Your Father and your Judge has planned and purchased your redemption. Does the knowledge of His great love, mercy, and power fill your soul with reverence for Him? How does your everyday conduct exhibit reverence for God?

D. Be obedient to the word of truth - 1 Peter 1:22 - 25

1. Love one another - 1:22

The truth purifies the sinner's soul, and the truth is Christ (John 1:14 and John 14:6). All God's truth is summed up in Him. Through Him we have experienced a new birth. This has not only brought us into a new relationship with God, making Him our Father, but has also brought us into a new relationship with one another, making us all brothers and sisters. In obedience to the truth, we are to love our brothers and sisters in Christ fervently, earnestly, and with a pure heart.

2. The Word of the Lord endures forever - 1:23-25

It is God's incorruptible, living, and abiding word which has brought us into our new relationship with God and with other believers. Peter, in verse 24, uses a quotation from Isaiah 40:6-8 to show the supremacy

and sureness of God's word. This is the Word of the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, the truth which purifies the souls of those who submit and obey.

E. Lay aside all malice, guile, hypocrisy, envy and evil speaking - 1 Peter 2:1

Those who have experienced the blessing of God's great salvation, having in obedience submitted to the purifying word of truth, are to lay aside all evil inclinations such as Peter lists here:

- *Malice* is anger which has boiled over into evil action with an intent to do harm.
- *Guile* is deliberate dishonesty - deceitfulness.
- *Hypocrisy* is pretending to be something you're not.
- *Envy* is resentful discontent — being resentful of someone else's good fortune.
- *Evil speaking* or slander is malicious lying about another person.

All of these traits are centered in self-love and definitely do not reflect brotherly love or a pure heart as Peter calls for in 1 Peter 1:22.

III. Grow spiritually - 1 Peter 2:2-10

Rather than focus upon one's self, the believer's focus is to be upon the word of God and the precious spiritual possessions which are ours through the mercy of God.

A. Desire the guileless word - 1 Peter 2:2-3

Christians need wholesome spiritual food in order to grow. Just as a hungry baby longs for his mother's milk, so the believer's desire for the pure, unadulterated word of God should be strong, fervent, relentless and even overwhelming. All true believers have sampled God's grace in being born again (*through the word of God* — 1 Peter 1:23.) This taste of His kindness should kindle a craving for more. Does your mind long for more of God's word? How often do you read your Bible and meditate upon God's word?

B. Draw near to the living stone - 1 Peter 2:4-8

1 Peter 1:3 tells us we have been *born again to a living hope* (NASB). 1 Peter 1:23 states that we have been born of an imperishable seed which is the living and abiding word of God (NASB). Now Peter calls us to come to the living stone which is Jesus Christ. As the living stone, Christ has life and also gives life and hope to all those who come to Him.

1. A stone rejected by men - 2:4

Christ was rejected and put to death by the Jewish leaders of His day. (See Matthew 21:42.) He is still

rejected by the majority of people in the world today. Have you chosen to go to Him or have you rejected Him? There is no neutral position — everyone makes the choice for or against Jesus Christ.

2. A precious stone chosen by God - 2:4-5

To God, Christ is a most precious and valuable stone, chosen to be the savior of the world and the perfect foundation stone for the church. Verse 6 is a quotation from Isaiah 28:16 and is used by Peter as a Scripture reference confirming Christ as the living stone and as the cornerstone. The Apostle Paul also referred to Christ as the chief cornerstone in Ephesians 2:20. In the first century, the chief cornerstone was the most important stone in any building. It was the first stone to be laid at the corner of the foundation. Every other stone of the building was perfectly aligned with the chief cornerstone. The mind and life of every believer must be perfectly aligned with Christ in order for personal and corporate growth of the church to take place. Is there any way in which your life is out of alignment with Christ? Will you read and study the Scriptures daily? Will you adjust your lifestyle by what you learn, bringing your life into alignment with Him?

3. Believers are also living stones - 2:5

All those who come to Jesus Christ are also chosen and precious in the sight of God. Though they were dead in trespasses and sins, God has made them alive (Ephesians 2:1-10) and blessed them in Christ to be living stones to be built into His spiritual temple, the church. All those who are a part of this spiritual house are part of a holy priesthood with the purpose of offering acceptable sacrifices to God. In contrast to the material sacrifices of the Old Testament, living stones are called to offer spiritual sacrifices. Hebrews 13:15 and 16 make reference to the sacrifice of praise and the sacrifices of doing good and sharing. Romans 12:1 calls believers to present their bodies as a living sacrifice. The psalmist prayed:

*O Lord open my lips
And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.
For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I
would give it;
You do not delight in burnt offering.
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit,
A broken and contrite heart —
These, O God, You will not despise.
(Psalm 51:15-17)*

All acceptable spiritual sacrifice is offered through Jesus Christ our high priest. Through His sacrifice on the cross we and our spiritual sacrifices are made acceptable before God.

4. Contrast between living stones and those who stumble - 2:6-8

For you who believe and obey God's word, the preciousness of Christ has become yours through faith. The promise of Scripture is that you will never be disappointed!

Those who disbelieve are those who reject Christ, the precious cornerstone. They stumble because they are disobedient to the word. To them, Christ has become *a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense* (1 Peter 2:8a and Isaiah 8:14). Peter, in his address to the Sanhedrin, recorded in Acts 4:5-12, included the Jewish rulers, elders, scribes and priests in this group. Every person who has heard the gospel of truth and rejected it has stumbled over Christ because He was a rock of offense to them. Peter makes it clear that this did not happen by chance or accident. *They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed* (1 Peter 2:8b). In God's eternal plan, nothing happens by chance and nothing is unforeseen. Everything is by divine appointment.

C. Delight in God's mercy - 1 Peter 2: 9-10

In contrast to the disobedient who are destined for stumbling, believers are privileged and chosen people. By God's mercy we are called out of darkness to live in the light. We are separated from the world and from sinners, consecrated to God as His chosen people to glorify Him. In Exodus 19:6, God told Moses to tell the people of Israel, *You shall be to Me a kingdom of*

priests and a holy nation. Now Peter calls all believers *a chosen generation* (literally race, family, or kind), *a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people* (1 Peter 2:9a).

God's purpose in choosing us for His people is that we might proclaim His praises. Our lives are to proclaim His praise to the world. How is your life a spiritual sacrifice of praise to God? Who do you know who might have reason to praise God because of you?

We are His by His mercy. Peter quotes from Hosea 1:9-10 and 2:23, which was originally a prophecy of Israel being restored after being rejected. Peter uses it to now include the reception of the Gentiles as God's people. The apostle Paul used the same passage for the same purpose in Romans 9. Those who were not a people are now the people of God. Peter is calling us to compare who we are now with who we were. We are God's people! Gird your mind, guard your conduct, and grow up into all the glorious inheritance which is yours as a man or woman of God.

Application

1. Will you thank God for His mercy and kindness in making you His own child?
2. How is God calling you to show your obedience to Him?
3. What habit needs to be put out of your life to make your manner of living more holy?
4. What spiritual sacrifices will you offer up to God?