

1 PETER 1:13-2:3 | A LIVING HOLINESS

Reset (1:13-17). These verses are bookended by two instructions: 1) *set your hope* (v 13) and *live in fear* (v 17). Peter's *therefore* at the commencement of v 13 links what he is about to say with the content of the previous verses. If we are to give praise God for the salvation that is ours now (new birth, v 3) and is yet to come (v 9) what does *set your hope on the grace to be revealed at his coming* look like? The answer is couched in the call for holiness in v 15 expressed in both the negative (v 14) and the positive (v 16). Peter uses the Old Testament to remind his readers that God's unchangeable character of holiness is to be the pattern for their own lives. Quoting Leviticus 19:2, the call for God's people to be set apart is not a new one, but it is a renewed one (*reborn*, 2:2). The apostle highlights our relationship with God our Father as the one who judges impartially as the grounds for living in right fear. This will be contrasted with the empty ways of the ancestors (*fathers*) in v 18. It is not a call to be *fearful*, but rather a humble reminder that no deed goes without accountability. This is in stark contrast with the individualism of Peter's day (v 14) and indeed of our day. Reverent fear is the habit of strangers in this world (*foreigners*).

Redeemed (1:18-21). The empty way of life has been replaced by faith and hope in God (v 21) gifted us through the ransom of the cross (v 19). Peter highlights the OT fulfilment as he declares Jesus' perfect sacrifice of his blood (a lamb without blemish) was both *precious* (more than silver or gold) and *purifying* (v 22). V 20 amplifies the plan of God outlined in 1:10-12. As Jesus was there at creation (Heb 1:2), so he is *revealed in these last times*, and will be present at the end (v 13). God graciously sent his Son to suffer as Messiah (v 11) so we would participate in the final glory.

Reborn (1:22-2:3). Peter returns to behaviour that flows from *obeying the truth* as calls his readers *to love one another deeply, from the heart* (*sincerely* and *constantly* cf. the empty ways of the fathers in v 18). The work God has done in their lives through the word is a work of rebirth (v 23) and accords with the imperishable inheritance of 1:4. Quoting Isaiah 40:6-8 the enduring word of God becomes *spiritual milk* we should desire rejecting self-centred and slanderous behaviour as the people of God *grow up in your salvation*, evidence of God's enriching goodness to us (v 3 cf Psalm 34:8).

1 PETER SERIES

OCTOBER 18

1 PETER 1:1-12 A LIVING HOPE

OCTOBER 25

1 PETER 1:13-2:3 A LIVING HOLINESS

NOVEMBER 1

1 PETER 2:4-10 A LIVING STONE

NOVEMBER 8

1 PETER 2:11-3:7 A LIVING EXAMPLE

NOVEMBER 15

1 PETER 3:8-22 A LIVING BLESSING

NOVEMBER 22

1 PETER 4:1-19 A LIVING SERVANT

BONUS STUDY

1 PETER 5:1-11 A LIVING SHEPHERD

RESOURCE

1 PETER: LIVING HOPE

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(READING THE BIBLE
TODAY SERIES)

GETTING STARTED

1. List the top five things you have set your hope on in this life?
2. Have any of them prevented you from setting your hope on the coming salvation of v 13?

INTO THE TEXT

Read 1:13-17

3. Summarise how hope has already been explained in the chapter?
4. What actions does Peter call for in vv 14-17 in order to *set your hope fully on the grace to be brought you when Jesus Christ returns*?
5. What are the characteristics of holiness called for in v 17 (see Leviticus 9:2; 11:44-45; 20:7-8)?
6. How is God's judgment related to the fear called for in v 17? How is this different from being afraid?

Read 1:18-21

7. What are the effects of Jesus' death?
8. What confidence does v 20 give us about the return of Jesus (see also Col 1:15-20; Heb 1:1-2)?

Read 1:22-2:3

9. How are we born again in v 23? What behaviour results from being born again?
10. What is the contrasting behaviour? What impact could it have on the church?
11. What is the spiritual milk we are to desire and what is its effect?

TAKEAWAY

1. Can you be Christian and not be born again?
2. What distracts you from setting your hope completely on the return of Christ?