**Gird Up the Loins of Your Mind**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**1 Peter 1:12-17**

**Wednesday Evening**

**January 11, 2023**

**1 Peter 1:12-17**

12 To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things which angels desire to look into.

13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,

16 because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy." 17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;

**12 To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things which angels desire to look into.**

Saints, The Holy Spirit revealed to the prophets that the prophecies would not happen during their lifetime. The prophets had the great honor of having Christ’s Spirit speak through them,

but the privileges of our understanding are even greater and should move us to an even deeper commitment to Christ. All the experiences regarding the coming salvation that the prophets had so wanted to see and hear have now been announced by those who preached the Good News.

As the Spirit inspired the prophets, so he inspired the apostles and missionaries in the first century. This is all so wonderful that even the angels are watching these events unfold.

Angels are spiritual beings created by God who help carry out his work on earth.

Just as the prophets could not understand or experience the coming salvation and grace because it would occur after their lifetimes,

neither can the angels understand or experience it because they are spiritual beings who do not need the blood of Christ to save them. The word translated “watching” means to peek into a situation as an outsider.

The angels watch (and often are sent to minister to) believers as they struggle and face ridicule or persecution. The angels know that God’s people are recipients of God’s grace and blessings and that one day they will be highly honored in the coming Kingdom.

**13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;**

Saints, Because the prophets had foretold the great privileges of the gospel and, with even the angels, long to understand them better, believers should show the same kind of earnest and alert concern regarding the way they live.

**Luke 12:35**

Be dressed for service and keep your lamps burning.

**Romans 8:19**

The creation waits in eager expectation for the revelation of the sons of God.

**Ephesians 6:14**

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness arrayed,

**Colossians 3:4**

When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

**1 Thessalonians 5:6**

So then, let us not sleep as the others do, but let us remain awake and sober.

**1 Thessalonians 5:8**

But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and the helmet of our hope of salvation.

To think clearly refers to spiritual and mental attitudes. To lead holy lives in an evil world, the believers would need a new mind-set. They also needed to monitor and restrain their sexual and material desires, anger, and words.

Exercise self-control is also translated “discipline yourselves.” Peter wanted the believers to remember that as they lived in the world, they needed to keep full possession of their minds and bodies so as not to be enticed away from God.

Peter has described true faith in 1:1-13, and in 1:14 he begins a series of moral commands that stretch throughout the rest of his letter. In a few words, Peter explained how believers can reflect God’s character and priorities and follow God’s commands.

As they look forward to the special blessings that will come, they will be encouraged to change their mind-sets to be in line with God’s plans for them, to change their lifestyles to glorify God, and to persevere during difficulties and persecutions.

**14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;**

Saints, all believers are God’s children. As such, we are to obey God. Believers ought not live in the same manner that they lived before they were saved.

**Ephesians 4:21-24**

21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

**Philippians 3:13-15**

13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

At that time, they didn’t know any better, but now they should not slip back into their old ways of doing evil. The evil desires still exist, but believers have a new goal for their lives.

They must break with the past and depend on the power of the Holy Spirit to help them overcome evil desires and obey God.

**Colossians 3:5**

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

**Galatians 5:16**

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

**Romans 6:12**

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.

**Ephesians 4:21-24**

21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

**15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,**

Saints, God’s holiness means that he is completely separated from sin and evil. Holiness pervades his character—he is holy. He is the opposite of anything profane.

**2 Corinthians 7:1**

Therefore, beloved, since we have these promises, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that defiles body and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

**1 Thessalonians 4:7**

For God has not called us to impurity, but to holiness.

**James 3:13**

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good conduct, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

**1 John 3:3**

And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as Christ is pure.

Saints, believers must be holy in everything they do—that is, totally devoted or dedicated to God, set aside for his special use and set apart from sin and its influence. Our holy God expects us to imitate him by following his high moral standards.

Believers should be set apart and different because of God’s qualities in their lives. Our focus and priorities must be his. We have already been declared holy because of our faith in Christ, but we must work out that divine family likeness in our day-by-day walk, behavior, and conduct.

We cannot become holy on our own, but God gives us his Holy Spirit to help us. We will not achieve perfect holiness in this life; Peter’s words mean that all parts of our lives and character should be in the process of becoming conformed, both inwardly and outwardly, to God’s holy standards.

**16 because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."**

Saints, to confirm Peter’s words, Peter quoted the Old Testament Scriptures, which would be familiar to the Jewish Christians in his audience, “You must be holy because I am holy.” These words are from Leviticus 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:7.

**Leviticus 11:44-45**

44 For I am the LORD your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy. Neither shall you defile yourselves with any creeping thing that creeps on the earth. 45 For I am the LORD who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.

**Leviticus 19:2**

"Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them: 'You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy”

**Leviticus 20:7**

“Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God”

Originally this command applied to the Jews, God’s chosen nation, but Peter applied them to the Christians, God’s chosen people from all nations.

**Hebrews 12:14**

Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

**17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;**

Saints, God was their loving Father to whom they could pray, yet he was also a strong disciplinarian and the impartial Judge of the entire universe.

This judging could refer to God’s future judgment of believers when they will be rewarded for how they have lived, but the present tense of the verb judges makes more sense if it is applied to God’s present judgment and discipline on believers during their lives on earth.

When God judges, he has no favorites. Just as these believers constantly called on God for help because they knew he loved them, they should also be careful how they lived:

Live in reverent fear of him during your time as foreigners here on earth. Reverent fear is not the fear of a slave for a ruthless master, but the healthy and fervent respect of a believer for the all-powerful God.

Because God is the Judge of all the earth, believers dare not ignore him or treat him casually. We should not assume that our privileged status as God’s children gives us freedom to do whatever we want.

A good parent administers discipline without favoritism. We should not be spoiled children, but grateful children who love to show respect for our heavenly Father.

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name!**

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