

1 Peter 1:13-16 – Part FF

1Pe 1:13 (NKJV) 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.*"

We continue to look at [1 Peter 1:13-16](#) which is one sentence. We looked last week at the exhortations to “**gird up the loins of your mind**” and to “**be sober**”. The third exhortation, which is really the governing verb of v13, is the word “**hope**”. It is a word that means to trust in someone and to confide in someone in a very expectant way.¹ The noun form of the word “**hope**” does not even appear in the Gospels, so it is a word that is firmly rooted in the Epistles and it is directly grounded in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Think of it this way. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is what has created our faith. Without the resurrection of Christ, we have no hope, we have no basis for faith. For instance, [1 Peter 1:3](#) says,

1Pe 1:3 (NKJV) Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

[Hebrews 10:23](#) encourages us to hold fast to our hope simply because we know that God is faithful.

Heb 10:23 (NKJV) Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful.

In v13, the verb “**hope**” is the strongest of the three verbs, so it is crucial that we fully understand how it is used in this passage. Biblical hope is always Christ centered, always God centered. [1 John 3:2-3](#) says,

1Jn 3:2 (NKJV) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him (Christ centered) purifies himself, just as He is pure.

We know that when Christ is revealed that “**we shall be like Him**”, and it is this hope in Christ that “**purifies**” our life. If a person does not have this hope, then there is nothing in their life that can really consistently help them to live a life of moral and godly purity. It is biblical hope that gives believers the drive to live for Christ and the endurance to withstand and survive all of the pressures that life will bring to them. [1 Corinthians 15:51-58](#), speaking about the reality of what our hope is centered on, says,

1Co 15:51 (NKJV) 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.*" ⁵⁵ "*O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?*" ⁵⁶ The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved

brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

The basis of Paul’s very strong encouragement in v58 that begins with “**therefore**” is simply the fact that one day we will all be “**changed**” (v51-52). It will be the most amazing change that anyone could ever experience, and it is that deep and eternal change that God will perform in our life that is our hope. It is that hope that gives us the strength and encouragement that we need to live out the Christian life. What we want to draw from all of this is a very simple message - **outlook determines outcome**. The other night I watched a commentary on 20/20 called “Wonder Boy”. It was about a young boy who was born with what is known as “Traacher Collins” disease where all of his facial features are marred. He had no cheek bones, no ears, and his eyes slanted down. He had an abnormal and diminished eye socket and a very small jaw and chin, but he had very normal intelligence. He was so marred at birth that the doctors and nurses did not want to show him to his parents. By the age of 12, he had had 53 surgeries and wore a tracheotomy all the time. While his parents were in the hospital, just completely devastated by the little baby’s condition, they heard singer Christina Aguilera sing a song called “You Are Beautiful”, and it was during that song that they decided that their little boy was really a beautiful person, and everything changed. Outlook always determines outcome. By the end of the story, you were just weeping for what a special person this little boy had become and how their family had handled all of the trials and struggles associated with his condition. Outlook always determines outcome.

Put another way, **our attitude always affects our action**. Our attitude will always govern our behavior. You can choose to be grumpy, angry, depressed, or bitter, or you can choose to be kind, pleasant, loving, and forgiving. Based on whatever choices we make, our life will always reflect those choices. We can choose to just wallow in self-pity, to be moody and grouchy with our parents, friends, or co-workers. We can become a sulky, irritable, complaining, and unpleasant person if we choose to live that way. It is always a choice. Because it is always our choice, we have no one to blame but ourselves. Most of our bad choices are based on the fact that we are not willing to accept that what God says is true and that when He declares that “**we reap what we sow**” that that is a spiritual law that we cannot and will not change. We can ignore it and act like it has nothing to do with us, but it has everything to do with us.

I reached a point in my life a long time ago where I willingly and consciously determined that by the grace of God that I was not going to live a negative life. I was not going to be an angry or bitter person. I refuse to be unforgiving. I choose to be gracious and kind to people no matter how they may see me or treat me personally. [1 Peter 2:20](#) and [1 Peter 2:23](#) say the following,

1Pe 2:20 (NKJV) For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.

1Pe 2:23 (NKJV) who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;

Even today I have someone in my life who has chosen to be detached, impersonal, critical of me, distant and cold towards me, and hold me personally responsible for an oversight that I literally knew nothing about. At a certain point in the very unpleasant circumstances and detachment, I had to make a choice – how would I respond? Would I become angry, aloof, indifferent, critical, and removed, or would I still be as Christlike towards them as is possible? I have chosen the latter and I have chosen to love them

as much as is possible in the face of their personal indifference and coldness towards me. I have no idea how the aloofness and indifference will eventually work out in their life or in mine, but I refuse to have an un-Christlike attitude towards them. Life is a choice, and each of us is a by-product – good or bad – of the choices that we have made in our life. You have to choose to do the right thing, even when you know that it may be painful and hurtful. Jesus did. He chose not to “**revile in return**”, to “**not threaten**”, and He chose to “**commit Himself to Him who judges righteously**”.

So as Peter leads us into the issue of living a life that is holy, it is important to realize and grasp the simple fact that we live in a spiritual environment that is anti-God, anti-Christ, and anti-Christian. The world is always pressuring us to conform to its standards and to abandon God’s standards. It is deeply desirous of your children and grandchildren. Many young people are literally living in cyber-space where parents have virtually no control over what they both see and listen to in a normal day. Our communication with one another is being done in blogs, tweets, messages, updates on Facebook, and Instagram. The attention span that is created by television reveals that they switch camera angles every 7-8 seconds simply because people get bored if they have to wait any longer for some kind of action. No wonder people are totally bored with church where they have to listen to one person speak for 30 minutes to an hour. During that time they cannot “delete” or “comment” on what they do not like. The point? Imagine that. The point is simple. The world is always reducing us to its standards, always pulling us apart from one another, and always demeaning the truth in every way possible. In the midst of that kind of environment, someone without biblical hope literally has no hope. They just become a statistic in a very demonic world bent on destroying every vestige of Christianity on the planet.

For me personally, the idea of someone having no hope is frightening. The idea of people living their lives with literally no hope sends chills down my spine. We live in a world, that as it tries to eliminate all biblical and moral values, is also removing hope from people’s lives. The suicide rate among young people continues to rise astronomically. In the last 10 years, the suicide rate among young teenage girls has literally doubled, and among young teenage boys, it has increased 30%. Why? It is because as they look at their lives very often filled with anger, disappointment, and drugs, they have lost all hope. The world has convinced them that there is no God and that living for Christ is a complete waste of time. We have parents who have little to no spiritual involvement with their children because they have no meaningful relationship to Christ themselves. If there was ever a time when people needed a message of hope, it has to be today.

It is important to appreciate that there are always several spiritual elements that are important to understand regarding biblical hope. First, the believer’s hope does not rest on what they have done or achieved, but on the gracious work of Christ on their behalf.² This is great! Our hope is not built on our personal performance. It is built solely on the performance of Christ. If the believer is inclined to think that their hope rests on their personal performance or their good works, then they will always be discouraged and depressed. Why? It is because they will always be failing, always falling short, always flunking, always crashing. The believer’s hope rests fully on the work of Christ – and nothing else. If the work of Christ is removed and if faith in Christ is removed, then we have no hope. We have nothing in which to place our hope. Hope must always have the correct object, and that object is always the work of Christ on our behalf. Everything that is needed for salvation has been provided by Christ and

Christ alone. People who have no hope have nowhere to turn but to themselves or maybe to someone else - and that is a tragic place to find themselves. [Colossians 1:27](#) gets it right when it says,

Col 1:27 (NKJV) To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Secondly, hope is something that God the Father gives to the believer.³ [2 Thessalonians 2:16-17](#) says,

2Th 2:16 (NKJV) Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, ¹⁷ comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

Hope, biblical hope, a God-given hope is not theoretical, but is a function of a real and living faith in God. Biblical hope is always confident, always sure of what awaits the believer, and it carries with it an unconditional certainty that cannot be stolen.⁴ Genuine believers know that God's promises will be fulfilled and because of that, they are willing to both endure and wait for His promises to be fulfilled in their life. The closer that someone draws to God, the greater will be their hope and confidence in God. For some people it seems that everything in their life is a problem. They do not like their circumstances. They do not like their boss. They do not like their parents. They do not like their financial status. They do not like their church. It just never ends. Do you want to know why? It is because they are people who have no idea what biblical hope is or how it actually affects and changes a person's life. They have never truly come to Christ, so they are always searching for something that even if they found it could never satisfy them anyway. All the world has to offer someone is disappointment and discouragement. All it has to offer is a carrot on a stick. The Bible calls it a "**snare**". Listen carefully to [1 Timothy 6:9](#) and how it describes man's dilemma,

1Ti 6:9 (NKJV) But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

In the Greek Interlinear "**snare**" is translated as a "**trap**". It refers specifically to the traps and snares that the devil sets for unbelievers. All of the devil's traps are attractive, appealing, and enticing, and the further away that a believer drifts away from God, the more appealing they become. What he offers with all of the cares of this life is just a trap. It is like the bait on a hook.

So, at this point in Peter's exhortation, what is he saying that God really wants and expects? How are we to see these three exhortations? Put simply, the believer is to embrace, accept, and welcome the kind of life to which they have been appointed. I love what Peter is doing here. I love how he is teaching us. There comes a point in every believer's life where they have to embrace what God has for them. I have no way of explaining or quantifying how any of this actually takes place in a person's life. If I can oversimplify it, it is just a choice that we all have to make. Who am I going to live my life for and what am I going to live my life for and when am I actually going to start living out the Christian life? It is a simple choice that every committed believer has to make. No one is exempt. You may be that person who has never decided who and what you are going to live for, so every day you just continue to make ungodly choices and then wonder and complain and whine when things do not go the way that you wanted or expected them to go. When I read the Bible, it is always telling me exactly how God wants me to live. It is always telling me how to live a godly life in an ungodly world. It says that we are to

“**watch and pray**”. It says that we are to live a life of purity. It says that children are to honor and obey their parents and that their parents are not to provoke their children to anger. It says that we are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together. It says that we are to “**hold fast to our confession without wavering**” ([Hebrews 10:23](#)). It says that we are to “**gird up the loins of our minds**”, to “**be sober**”, and to live in expectant hope of Christ’s return. The greater the believer’s hope, the greater will be the strength and courage they have to live out the Christian life in a way that honors God. Our life is a place of security because of the hope that binds us to Christ.⁵

The Bible is always telling me the kind of choices and decisions that God wants me to make in my life. However, with every one of the truths and principles that God places before us, we have to choose whether or not we are going to follow Him and trust Him with our life. The Word of God always reduces us to making godly choices. It never gives us an out. No matter how young or how old, when God confronts us with His truth, we always have to make a choice. There are so many Christians who simply are not willing to make the right choices for their life. They want what they want, and until they get it their way, they have chosen to just complain and grumble, and criticize until they get what they want. We have taught it often, but you never want to reach that place in your life where you resist the will of God for your life so much that He finally gives you what you want. That is simply a form of His judgment over your life and you will never like the results of the sin that has snared and trapped you with its enticements and false promises. Just learn to be content with what you have and with the faithful work of God in your life. Just place your hope in God and in His Word and you will be perfectly okay.

ENDNOTES

¹ Zodhiates, *hope*, 570.

² Verbrugge, *hope*, 184.

³ Verbrugge, *hope*, 184.

⁴ Verbrugge, *hope*, 184-185

⁵ Verbrugge, *hope*, 185.

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