

Prepare for Action 1st Peter 1:13-25

We continue this morning in our study of 1st Peter. This morning the title of our message is “Prepare for Action.” Peter builds on what he wrote that we studied last week, and that is that God caused us to be saved and He orchestrated the events of history to bring us to the point of salvation at the proper time. We also saw last week that since God caused us to be saved, we have hope for the future because He secures our salvation in heaven for eternity. We do not need to worry about losing our salvation, we don’t need to worry about holding on to God because He is holding on to us.

Peter builds on that paragraph and in our passage today tells us we need to prepare for action. He also tells us that we are to be holy because He is holy. We are to reflect what God is, we are to reflect God to the world around us. So let’s dig into the text this morning and see what the Apostle Peter writes to churches started by Jews from other countries that were in Jerusalem on Pentecost.

1 Peter 1:13 (ESV)

13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Of course, we know that when a passage begins with, therefore, we have to see what it is there for. It is there to link what Peter is about to say with what he previously stated. In this case, Peter is saying because God caused you to be saved, because God is maintaining your salvation, we should prepare your minds for action. We have a responsibility to respond to the reality that God saved us and maintains our salvation.

You do not get to be saved and then do what you want. You do not get to have it both ways. But a great many people want to do just that. They receive salvation from God and then think that they can continue living and acting like they always did. No change of heart, no change of mind, no change of direction. That is not consistent with what Peter tells us to do here.

Those of you reading in King James or New King James have a completely different reading of this verse. The word in the ESV “preparing” is actually 5 words in Greek which are literally translated as “gird the waist the mind.” It is a Greek idiom which is used to speak of preparing your mind to learn and be exercised. Much like a singer warms up their vocal cords or a runner stretches out their muscles. Peter is telling us that we need to prepare our minds for the action that comes from being a follower of Jesus.

He then tells us that we need to be sober-minded. Peter is not talking about the consumption of intoxicating beverages or substances here. He is talking about keeping our minds clear and

alert, ready for action. Peter will later tell us that we need to be prepared at all time to give an answer for the hope that is within us. He is kind of giving the same instruction here. Because God caused you to be saved get head in the game and be ready to do what He commands you to do. You do not have the right to say you can't, because if you truly are a follower of Jesus you have dwelling within the Holy Spirit who provides you all the power you need to do what He has commanded you to do. You don't have the power by yourself, you must depend on Him.

Peter continues in verse 13 by saying that we are to set our hope fully in the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. When Peter tells us to “set your hope”, he is telling us that our salvation is not yet complete, this is not as good as it gets. These are not your best days now. Our salvation is not yet complete, and it will not be complete until the rapture. No matter if we are already dead or still alive when the rapture occurs it will be at that moment that our salvation will be complete. We will be resurrected or transformed from mortal to immortal, ready to live with God for eternity. Then our salvation, God's gift of Grace will be complete. Peter reminds us to fix our hope to that event. Don't allow anything to distract you from the reality that God will complete the process He caused to begin in you. He will carry out His promises.

1 Peter 1:14 (ESV)

14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,

When God caused you to be saved He adopted you to be His child. As His child, we are to be obedient to His direction. In order to be obedient to Him, we need to not be conformed to our natural passions. It is important that I remind you here that obedience does not make you a child of God. God caused you to be His child and as a result of your being a child of God, obedience is to characterize your life.

Peter says that we are to not be conformed to the passions of our former ignorance. That is your pre-salvation natural desires. We are to no longer act like we used to act and like the world continues to act like. The fact that we are saved should result in our looking and acting different than the unsaved world. People around you should know you are different than they are. You should be the best husband, the best father, the best wife, the best mother, the best employee, the best employer, the best anything you could ever be. This verse is another verse that provides for us what I have been calling the White Hat Principle.”

Now look at verse 15.

1 Peter 1:15–16 (ESV)

15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

Not only are we to employ the “White Hat Principle.” we are to be holy. God tells us that because He is holy, we should be Holy as well. So what does that mean? What does it mean to be Holy? Both the Old Testament and the New Testament speak of Holiness as an attribute of God more than any other attribute. Clearly it is important to God.

Holy is the Greek word ἅγιος (hagios) which means “to be clean”, “ceremonially clean,” to be perfect, without blemish

We know that holy comes from the idea of being set apart. The root word means distinct or different. It is the “White Hat Principle.” We have been separated by God to Him and as a result of being separated we are to look and act different, be holy.

Because God caused you to be saved we have the responsibility to develop a life within us and external to us, what we think and how we act, that is formulated around a culture of personal holiness. Your thoughts, your desires, your direction, are all to be different than the rest of the world and are to be reflections of God and not the world. Think different, act different, be different.

So what does that mean in your life?

1 Peter 1:17 (ESV)

17 And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,

I am amazed at how many preachers and pastors out there believe that once someone says they believe their work is done. The person is saved so move on. I am afraid that when we all get to heaven, there will be some people there we do not expect and won't be some people there who expect they will be there because they were told all they had to do is believe.

Now let be completely clear here. Salvation is only through God's Grace through Faith that He gives us. It is not dependant on your obedience to His commands. Because without the power of the Holy Spirit you cannot be obedient and you do not receive the Holy Spirit until you are saved. So I am not saying that you have to do anything other than have faith in God, that is the only way you can be saved. But what I am saying is that if you say you have faith but then continue to act like you always acted, think like you always thought and look like you always looked then there is a pretty good chance that you do not really have faith and God has not caused you to be saved, at least not yet. Salvation has to cause a change in your being or it is not real.

God takes our new character development seriously. Peter reminds us of that fact in this verse when he refers to God as the father who judges. When God caused you to be saved and you became part of the family of God you were placed into a new category by God. One in which He will judge you and correct you. We should never think that since we are His child we can do whatever we want. There is no possibility that what we do will go unnoticed by God.

There is a sense in the verse that Peter was talking specifically to Jews here. Jews thought that since they were God's chosen people they would not be held accountable by God for their actions. But Peter says that God does not accept the Jew over the Gentile for salvation or for proper behavior. When it comes to salvation, during this church age there is no difference between the Jew or the Gentile, between male and female, between free and slave. We all come to Him the same way. And then when we do call Him father we are all held to the same standard. Any guess what that standard is.

“Be Holy of I am Holy,” that right the standard is God Himself. It is not me, it is not Peter, Paul or Even Mary. It is God Himself. As children of God we are to show a family resemblance and look like Him. Think like Him, Act like Him.

Peter tells us we are to look like God for our entire time as exiles. Each of us is an exile in this land. When we became a

child of God we became citizens of heaven and now exiles in this world we find ourselves in.

1 Peter 1:18–19 (ESV)

18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

Most English versions of this verse use the word redeemed where the ESV uses the word ransomed. We were redeemed or ransomed from the slave market of sin by the value of the precious blood of Jesus. Jesus paid the price to redeem you, Ransome you, or purchase you. It cost Him everything, and it cost you nothing.

Remember the context here. God caused us to be saved, we bring nothing to the table other than our sin and through the precious blood of Jesus we have been saved, and that salvation is maintained in heaven by God. You want to feel sure about your salvation, this verse should help you to do that. You did not, could not, pay for it. It took way more than we could ever give to satisfy the debt.

Notice what Peter says here, it was not through the futile ways of their forefathers but by the sacrifice of the lamb of God. Clearly, Peter is making a comparison to the Atonement or covering of sins which resulted from the ritual sacrifice in Israel.

They had to keep making the sacrifice to keep a covering. They had to sacrifice the unblemished lamb. But Jesus came as the perfect lamb of God whose blood paid the price for all God causes to be saved.

Eternal life never came through the sacrifices. Salvation for the Jews in the age of Law came through their faith that God would care for them. God saved them through faith just like He does for us.

Peter also reminds us that we cannot purchase our salvation through gold or silver. While this is true in the literal words written it also speaks to the reality that we can do nothing to bring about salvation. We can't join the church, give money, work in the church, or whatever, to be saved. Salvation only comes through the precious blood of Jesus and only when God causes it.

1 Peter 1:20 (ESV)

20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you

Peter takes us back to God's plan here. God's plan, before creation included Jesus becoming the perfect lamb of God whose shed blood would bring salvation to those he cause dot be saved. God's plan always included that even though His plan did not reveal Jesus until He went to the cross. I want you to think about what Peter intends here.

I think Peter includes this verse because there was a tendency to think that God's plan A was a perfect Adam and Eve in the garden. For them to be fruitful and multiply and for everything to be unicorns and rainbows. And then God had to react to the sin of Adam and provide a plan for salvation. But God did not have to come up with a plan B but just continued in plan A, the only plan ever, because the plan always included Jesus being the lamb of God.

You see God knows everything and planned everything. I believe that God made one decree that includes everything of all time. It includes creation, the fall, the cure for sin and everything for all time. God does not just react to our sin. He has planned for it and prepared for it. God is completely and entirely in control and nothing is ever out of His control.

1 Peter 1:21 (ESV)

21 who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Peter begins to tie up the closing of this paragraph here in verse 21. Through Jesus, the Lamb of God, God has provided a way for people to be caused to be believers in God. But then notice that Peter does not stop there. He reminds us that Jesus was raised from the Dead which provides us certainty for our future. Our future is not based upon anything that we can do but upon what God has done, upon His abilities.

Peter reminds us that we do not need to depend on ourselves, we depend on Him and on His ability not us and our ability.

1 Peter 1:22 (ESV)

22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart,

This is an interesting verse and one where it helps to have some Greek language skills or resources that help you with Greek Grammar. The words “having purified” seem like they are past tense but in Greek, they are in the perfect tense. The perfect tense is when the action begins in the past and continues on in the present. Not simply to the present but continues to the present. We began the process of purification at our salvation, and that process continues in the present. The theological term is progressive sanctification. The process of becoming more holy as we go along.

Sanctification is a theological term that is used in two ways in scripture. In one way it means we have been sanctified by God when He saved us. He knows views us through the precious blood of Jesus and no longer sees our sin or our guilt. We have been declared righteous.

But sanctification is also used as Peter uses it here in a progressive fashion where we become holier and holier. Where we become closer to the character of God. That is if we are obedient.

1 Peter 1:23 (ESV)

23 since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;

I love this verse. We have been born again to a new life, a life that is imperishable. When God caused you to be saved He saved you to eternal life. Notice that there is nothing in this verse to speak of any sort of caveat to our salvation. He saved you to eternal life. That means once you are saved you will always be saved and you can't lose that, you cant give it back and it can't be taken away from you. When God caused you to be saved it was for keeps! The end!

He did that through the living and abiding Word of God. What is this that he calls the Word of God? Is it Scripture, Old Testament, New Testament. Is it Jesus Himself who John called the Word. My answer to that question is yes. In a way it all of that.

John calls Jesus the Logos, the Word of God, who came to proclaim truth to the World. Both the Old and New Testaments do the very same thing. They convey truth, enduring and living truth to the world.

I believe Peter here is referring to God's communication to those whom He causes to be saved. God communicates with us through the written word we call the Bible. God communicates to us through His creation. God communicates to us on a

supernatural level through the Holy Spirit. I think Peter has all of that in mind here. He making a general statement that God has spoken to us the truth of His call on our lives and brought us to the point of salvation at the right time. He orchestrated everything, including communication to bring us to salvation at the perfect time in His plan.

Peter then quotes Isaiah in the next two verses.

1 Peter 1:24–25 (ESV)

24 for

“All flesh is like grass

and all its glory like the flower of grass.

The grass withers,

and the flower falls,

25 but the word of the Lord remains forever.”

And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

Peter quotes Isaiah 40:6-8 in these two verses. The idea here is that the Word of God, no matter the form, never fails, never goes away, never dies, it remains true and in effect forever. God’s Word is unlike anything ever in the history of the world. It is always right, it is always true and it will never cease to be

true. Unlike the grass of the field or the flowers. It does not take much to kill the grass or kill a flower. But God's word cannot.

Why does Peter tell us this? Because he is reminding us that God caused us to be saved and has promised us eternal life and nothing that God says can ever not happen it can never just go away. Peter is providing us more confidence in the promises of God.

One of the things that Satan like to do is to make you doubt your salvation. But Satan cannot take it away because God has caused it to happen and has promised eternal life to us. That cannot and will not fail. We are to have confidence in that, even in the midsts of struggles and persecutions.

Remember Peter is righting to Christians who were rejected by the world and by their families. Christians who were persecuted and harassed by the government. He was reminding them of the surety of their eternal life. And because of that eternal life that their present life should be different than the world.

It is just the same for us. We are saved by the power of God so that we are to be different than the world and no one can change the reality that we have eternal life with Jesus and He garuntees that!.

Let's Pray!

