

1 Peter 1:13-2:3 - Be Holy

A. Introduction

- We should humbly recognize that we are sinners saved by grace alone.
- However, we are not worthless – we are precious to God because we are “priceless” – He gave the blood of His Son to rescue us (1:18-19)
- We should be passionate about knowing God’s purpose for our lives.
- God’s purpose, trumping all else, is that we should be holy (1:15-16)

B. 1:13-16 - What is holiness?

- Holiness is the response to the glorious salvation Christ has won for us (1:3-12). Be serious and sober and steadfast about this (1:13).
- **1:14** - “*Girding up the loins of our mind*” is a metaphor for serious commitment – like Israel – be ready for action (Exodus 12:1,11).
- **1:13** - We need to be alert (4:7; 5:8) and focused on our hope.
- **1:14** - Holiness will involve separation for the world – we must not be conformed to its pattern – falling back into loving what it loves.
- **1:15-16** – But at the heart of holiness there is something very positive and amazingly life-transforming – to be holy means to be like God (Exodus 19:4-6; Leviticus 11:44-46).

C. 1:17-21 - Why should we be holy?

- **1:14,17 - Remember who you are:** We are children of God. We are to bear the family likeness, marked by loving reverence and trustful fear. What will Jesus say when we meet him? (1 Corinthians 3:10-15).
- **1:14,18-20 – Remember what you were:** Before our conversion our lives were marked out as ignorant and empty. It was like an endless maze where everything was vain, pointless and meaningless (Titus 3:9).
- To rescue us from this Jesus shed his blood. This refers to his violent death (Hebrews 9:14; 10:19; 1 John 1:7; Revelation 12:11). This means that we are not worthless but priceless. And we were not an impulse buy – God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world.
- **1:21 - Remember what you will be:** One day we will be freed from the presence and power of sin forever – becoming like Jesus (1 John 3:1-3).
- Peter’s great theme is hope (1:3,13,21). This not wishful thinking, but solid, secure and unconditional certainty.

D. 1:22-2:3 - How can I be holy?

- **1:22** – Holiness is always seen in our relationships between each other. Holiness is worked out in the context of the church.
- The process of holiness involves the work of God and our co-operation and hard work (Philippians 2:12-13).
- So how can I be holy?
 - ❖ **1:22-25 - You cannot do it without a miracle**
 - It is impossible to make ourselves holy – only a miracle will transform us. We have been born from above by the power of the Holy Spirit, who uses the power of the Word that imparts life (John 3:3,5,7)
 - ❖ **2:1-3 – You must work at it with God’s grace.**
 - **Discipline** – we must not flirt with sin, but must put it away
 - **Diet** – like a new baby long for the pure spiritual milk of the Word (Psalm 19:7-9). Meeting Christ in the Word will change us (2 Corinthians 3:17-18).