

Where Our Hope Rests

1 Peter 1:13

Introduction

1. Our whole lives we work and toil and prepare for one thing or another. With everything that we do there is some goal that we expect or hope to achieve.
2. Many people spend life times trying to achieve their hopes or dreams and in the end, they may achieve their goal, but the glory from that achievement only lasts a moment (1 Cor. 9:25).
3. When we have our hope set on eternal things, however, that our reward will be one that can never fade.
4. God offers mankind a hope far greater than anything else that we can find in this life. By the inspiration of God Peter tells us how we can have this hope and how to prepare ourselves to achieve the eternal reward.

Discussion

I. Gird up the Loins of your Mind

- A. Webster's defines "gird up", "to prepare oneself for action."
- B. To gird our loins is to trim and tuck away all excess that may slow us down while working, much like an athlete does in preparation for a race.
 1. In biblical times men wore robes or gown-like garments. A belt was used to hold the robe tight to the waist and secure any loose flowing material so that it did not tangle or obstruct motion.
 2. By girding themselves they put the belt around their waist which prepared them for work, travel, or any other action requiring much movement (Isa. 22:21).
 3. For Christians our preparation is of the heart. The belt with which we gird ourselves is from the Lord for a spiritual preparation (Eph. 6:14; Isa. 11:5).
- C. Jesus taught that all Christians are to be prepared in such a manner (Luke 12:35).
- D. When we gird up the loins of our mind "we put out of the mind all things that would impede the free action of the mind in connection with developing our hope" (Mark Copeland). See also 1 Peter 4:1, 2 – This is how Jesus lived.
 1. Putting out of the mind such things as worry, fear, or obsession with material possessions.
 2. These are the things that would hinder or entangle our mind to keep us from resting our hope where it ought to be.
- E. With our minds girded we will be prepared to receive the exhortations found in this passage and in the rest of the New Testament. We will have a mindset to work toward...
 1. Being sober, rest hope in grace (vs. 13).

2. Conducting ourselves in fear (vs. 17).
3. Loving one another (vs. 22).
4. Desiring pure milk (2:2), etc.

II. Be Sober

- A. Focused. Not distracted by vain things (Luke 21:34-36 – Jesus illustrates one who is not sober).
 1. When we are not sober our heart is weighed down, constrained.
 2. The cares of this life can act on our souls in the same way that alcohol can act on the mind. They are as snares that draw our thoughts away from our God.
 3. When we are not sober our spiritual senses become dull, our understanding tainted by the things of this life.
 4. We become blind as mentioned John 12:40.
- B. Soberness is almost always associated with watchfulness and readiness: Luke 21:34, 35; 1 Thess. 5:6, 7; 1 Pet. 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:8.
 1. Just as alcohol can dull the mental senses, the cares of this world can disorient the Christian.
 2. When a Christian is sober or “sober in Spirit” they keep themselves free from the worries, fears, cares, and turmoils that can draw a person’s focus away from God (Matt. 13:22).
 3. It is only when our senses are keenest that we can be wholly vigilant and ready for the Lord’s coming.
- C. When we are sober we are awake, ready and aware. Unlike a person who is drowsy from inactivity or drunk with the delusions of this world we are to think clearly and focus on Christ and the goal of our calling.

III. Rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you.

- A. Peter offers a foundation by which we can remain sober.
 1. Hope: looking forward to something that is assured to happen. “Assured expectation.”
 2. When we hope for fleshly things then we cannot see clearly the spiritual things that we are to be striving for.
 3. Like an arrow aimed at its target or a runner with nothing in his mind except the finish line, so Christians must have their sites firmly fixed upon the goal (1 Cor. 9:25)
- B. Our hope does not rest in houses, cars, money, things of this life, but on the grace of God.
 1. When we hope for fleshly things we are not able to see clearly the truth and eternal goal.
 2. Our aim, our focus, our efforts in this life must be wholly centered on the reward that we have in Christ.
 3. Heb. 4:11 – diligent to enter that rest; Heb. 12:12 – looking forward to the joy set before Him.

- C. There is only one hope of our calling (Eph. 4:4) and we have that hope because of the grace of God (1 Pet. 5:10, 12).
1. With this hope we stand firm as it says in 1 Pet. 1:14, as obedient Children.
 2. Only those who are children of God and do not conform themselves to their former lusts (sinful practices in the world) can have this hope.
 3. It is to them and them alone that this grace will be given.
 4. These are the children that are described in 1 John 3:1, 4-9.
 - a. Let no one deceive you (vs. 7).
 - b. Those who sin, who are not sober, who have not girded the loins of their mind to do the will of God are not the sons of God; they cannot be the sons of God unless they turn to Him.
 - c. The world teaches that we can be right with God and still sin, but it is not so.
 - d. Obedient children are those who live according to the life of their Father.
 - e. These are the children who have the hope the grace of God.

Conclusion

1. Upon what does your hope rest?
2. Are you a child of God? Have you prepared your mind to do the will of the Father?
3. If you wish to partake of the grace of God, to be glorified with Him when Christ comes, you can become a child of God today by being baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:26, 27).
4. If you are a Christian but have not been sober, will you come to Jesus now, repent of your sins and gird up the loins of your mind to do the will of God?

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