

Session 2

13 – In view of the extraordinary blessings we are privileged with, we are given three essential exhortations: 1) prepare your minds for action, 2) keep sober, 3) fix your hope completely on the grace to come.

- 1) “Prepare your minds for action” is the literal translation of the figurative words presented in the KJ – “Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind.” The metaphor taken from the custom of the oriental nations, who wearing long loose garments, were wont to gird them up about their loins, that they might not hinder them in their travelling or working, (1Kings 18:46; 2Kings 4:29; Luke 17:8). Be ready like the Special Forces - Matthew 24:38-44; 25:1-13; Luke 21:34-36. Many if not most do not prepare their minds for action and are taken off guard by the adversary (1Peter 5:8). Jesus was prepared for the attack when he was in the wilderness. If you know you have a problem with overeating, porn, covetousness, etc., get prepared for the attack. If you battle depression, get fortified.
- 2) Keep “sober” means earnestly thoughtful; clear-headed; controlled and alert; mindful; marked by temperance, moderation, and seriousness; not extreme.
1Thessalonians 5:6-8; 1Peter 4:7 and 8
- 3) Fix your hope completely on the grace.... Placing hope in someone or something other than the return leads to disappointment and discouragement.

14 – Obedient children Romans 1:5 and 6; 16:25-27; 6:16-23; 2Corinthians 10:1-5
Conformed Romans 12:2; Ephesians 2:1-4; 4:17-19

LUST

1Peter 1:14 – Before Christ, lusts were our norm and not considered abnormal or even wrong. Lust is the typical lifestyle of all people.

1Peter 2:11 – We are no longer like everyone else, so lust is no longer our routine. Lusts wage war against the soul of every man, woman, and child.

1Peter 4:1-5 – Life has now changed.

2Peter 1:4 – We have escaped.

Romans 6:12 – Do not let the human sin-nature reign (be king or ruler) in your body for when it does, we lust.

Romans 13:14 – The human condition is such that we all lust.

Ephesians 2:1-3 – “Flesh” is the physical nature of man as distinguished from his spiritual. It is common to humankind and can be referred to as human nature. “Lust” represents the strong passions, desires, longings, or cravings that motivate behavior. A good definition for “lusts of the flesh” is the impulses and longings of a self-centered person. **The lust of the flesh is part of human nature common to every individual.** Desires of the flesh are the will or wishes of the flesh.

We share common interests – acceptance, significance, love, companionship, camaraderie, excitement, passion, aspirations, fun or laughter, influence. We want our lives to matter. We dislike or even detest rejection, inconsequentiality, antipathy, loneliness, boredom, apathy or indifference, hopelessness, sadness or heavy heartedness, worthlessness. These common concerns drive us and can be good and noble or if unrestrained evil and dastardly ignoble. These desires open up everyone in the world to the lust of the flesh. **The only one who can consistently satisfy these human longings is Yahweh your Father.** Without God, we all surrender to the lust of the flesh.

James 1:14 & 15; 4:1 & 2 – We want to see the truth behind lust so we can avoid its snare.

Ephesians 4:22 – Lust is very deceitful and cunning. It often provides instant gratification or good feeling that entices you to come back for more, but eventually you cross a line and become dependent and trapped with much less good feeling and with severe ramifications (e.g. covetousness (credit card debt); overeating; entertainment (excessive TV viewing); being a work-alcoholic, alcoholic, sex addict (porn), drug addict.... Titus 3:3

Romans 1:24-ff; 6:16-ff - Lust leads to more and more ungodliness, impurity, dirtiness, mortification, degradation, and in the end eternal death.

2Timothy 2:22 – The correct pursuits are God, godliness, righteousness, faith, love, and peace.

1John 2:16 & 17 – Always keep your eye on the hope and the life that is to come.

1Peter 1:15 – **Holiness**

Ephesians 1:4 – These few words communicate God’s desire before creation and ever since, the true purpose of the ages to be completely accomplished in the end.

God chose us to be holy. The most common designation for Christians in the New Testament is “saints” meaning holy ones. The Epistle of Ephesians, according to chapter one verse one, is to the saints. Paul uses this appellation nine times in this small epistle. “Saints” is translated from the Greek word *hagios* that most often is translated “holy” (161 times). “Saints” are holy ones. God called us to be holy and refers to us as holy ones (saints). Tragically, due to the widespread Roman Catholic influence, the understanding of “saints” is abhorrently in error. They teach that

only the dead can be saints, which is a blatant contradiction to the Scriptures and common sense. If only dead people are saints, then the New Testament was written to dead people thereby making the Bible irrelevant for the living. God's chosen are called to be holy ones (saints).

1Corinthians 6:11 - The Scriptures teach that a person becomes a saint (holy one) when he accepts the lordship of Christ and believes that God raised him from the dead. At that moment, God's gracious gift of holy spirit is given thereby making the believer holy.

2Corinthians 7:1 - After our initial conversion, we strive to live a holy life and to progress or mature in holiness.

Saints are not perfect ones, rather holy ones – those striving to live with Jesus Christ as Lord. When we fall, which we will, we ask for forgiveness, get up, and continue on our way to the day of complete holiness. When Jesus comes back, with the resurrection we will receive a new life which is completely free from all defilement and is consummated in holiness. At that time, we will be perfect. To summarize, holiness consists of three aspects: 1) when we first believe, we are made holy by God's grace through Jesus Christ; 2) henceforth, throughout life we endeavor to live holy; 3) when Christ returns, we will become completely holy forever.

16 – Quoted from Leviticus 11:44 & 45; 19:2; 20:7 - Be you consecrated means dedicated to a sacred purpose, hallowed (revered, venerable, highly respected).

17 – Who impartially judges – Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 89:13 & 14; Matthew 16:24-27; Romans 2:6-11; Colossians 3:23-25; Hebrews 10:26-31; Deuteronomy 10:12, 17; Psalm 62:12; and Proverbs 24:12

Conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay *upon earth*- Peter makes a compelling argument for living like sojourners in a strange land (aliens) throughout his writing. We are to think and conduct ourselves like an alien – a person who is not a citizen of the country in which he or she now lives. Our situation is temporary, and we are constantly moving in the direction of God's Kingdom.

20 – Foreknown – Greek *proginosko* means knowing beforehand (1:2 and 2Peter 3:16-18). Is God the only one with foreknowledge?

22 – Sincere love of the brethren.... "Sincere" means not hypocritical, unfeigned, clear of heart (1Peter 4:8; Romans 12:9; 2Corinthians 6:6; Philippians 1:9-11; 1Timothy 1:5; Hebrews 13:1).

23 – Born again by the word of the Lord (Luke 8:4-15) The seed is the word of God.

Chapter Two

The chapter begins by setting forth the contrast of the instruction in 1:22 – sincere love of the brethren; fervently love one another from the heart.

1 – Laying aside -Romans 13:12; Ephesians 4:22, 25; Colossians 3:8

The allusion is to putting off clothes; and the meaning is that we are to cast off these things entirely; that is, we are no longer to practice them.

Malice - a desire to cause harm to another person; ill-will; denoting extreme enmity of heart; a disposition to injure others without cause from mere personal gratification, or from a spirit of revenge – Romans 1:29; Ephesians. 4:31; Colossians 3:8; Titus 3:3; James 1:21; 1Peter. 2:1.

We are no longer hateful, mean, nasty, spiteful or venomous, or vicious.

Deceit – to catch with a bait, a lure, snare; hence, craft, deceit, guile (1Peter 2:22; 3:10 ; Matthew 26:4; Mark 14:1; 7:22; John 1:47 & 48; Acts 13:10; 2Corinthians 12:16; Romans 1:29; 1Thessalonians 2:3).

Envy - Hatred of others because of something which they have, or possess which we do not (Romans 1:29; Galatians 5:21; 1Timothy 6:4; Titus 3:3; 1Peter 2:1; Matthew 27:18; Mark 15:10; Philippians 1:15).

Hypocrisy - a feigning to be what one is not or to believe what one does not; *especially* the false assumption of an appearance of virtue or religion. The behavior of people who do things that they tell other people not to do or behavior that does not agree with what someone claims to believe or feel. Matthew 23:28; Mark 12:15; Luke 12:1; Galatians 2:13; 1Timothy 4:2; James 5:12.

Slander - defamation, evil speaking, to make a false spoken statement that causes people to have a bad opinion of someone. This word occurs only here and in 2Corinthians 12:20 where it is rendered “backbiting.”

2:2 SALVATION

1Peter 1:5 - Salvation will be revealed in the last time.

1:9-10 - Outcome [end or completion] of your faith is the salvation of your soul.

2:2 - We can grow in respect to salvation.

Romans 13:11-12 – Many verses speak to living now for the salvation to come.

Revelation 12:10-Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.

2Timothy 2:10 - Men like Peter and Paul devoted their lives to helping others receive salvation in the day Jesus returns. Many current preachers in the name of Jesus in contradiction focus on salvation today which is impossible, misleading, ending in eternal damnation.

Ephesians 2:1-9 – Salvation is deliverance from sin, evil, the world, and eternal damnation. It is impossible to save ourselves. Romans 3:9-28

Romans 5:6-11 – This had to be done for us.

John 10:9-10 - I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have *it* abundantly.

Act 4:12 - And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.

Romans 10:1-13

Titus 3:5 - He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,
2Timothy 1:9 - who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

Romans 1:15 & 16; Eph 1:13; 2Ti 3:15-17 – Gospel of salvation

Ephesians 6:17; 1Thessalonians 5:8-9 – Think about salvation for it is our helmet.

² So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;

¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure. (Philippians 2:12-13 NAU)

The Requirements for Salvation:

Matthew 19:16-ff – Jesus must be first.

Matthew 10:22; Matthew 24:13 - Enduring faith is required to be saved; yet, we are still saved by grace.

Luke 8:11-15 – Perseverance

1Corinthians 15:1-2 – Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand,
by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

Luke 13:23-30; Matthew 7:12-15 – Few are saved.

Questions Session Two:

1) We are born again to a living hope. Why is our hope considered a living hope?

2) Why was God's plan in Christ Jesus kept secret from even the prophets and angels? _____

3) The three essential exhortations of 1Peter 1:13 are: 1) prepare your minds for action; 2) keep sober; 3) _____. What adjustments can you make in daily living to comply with these vital principles?

4) A good definition for "lusts of the flesh" is _____.

5) The only one who can consistently satisfy these human longings is _____.

6) Based upon your understanding of Ephesians 1:4, explain God's desire before creation and ever since, the true purpose of the ages. _____

7) When we first believe, we are made holy by God's grace through Jesus Christ; henceforth, throughout life we endeavor to live holy; when Christ returns _____. What can you do to be holy as He is Holy?

8) We are born again of incorruptible seed. What is the seed? _____

9) What are the five things we are to lay aside in 2:1? _____

10) YHWH is God's proper name. What is His middle name? _____

Assignment:

Memorize the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13), and recite it at least once a day.

Read 1Peter at least two times and acknowledge the themes.

Review the verses related to God's protection in 1:5.

Questions for Session Three

1) According to Psalm 89, the foundation of God's throne is _____ and _____.

2) God's righteousness is the natural expression of His _____.

3) Many Scriptures indicate that everyone will be judged for the deeds they did. Are Christians exempt from this judgment? _____

4) The illustration of putting off clothes is used regarding the old ways. What is the point? _____

5) When is the day of salvation? _____ Are we saved now? _____

6) What are some verses that show we are saved by grace?

7) What are the requirements for salvation? _____

8) In Philippians 2:12 and 13, we are told to work out our own salvation. Is this a contradiction to being saved by grace? _____ How do we work out our own salvation? _____

9) Were Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all among the original apostles?
