

Now What?

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1 Peter 1:13-25

You missed the point! Those are the words we sometimes hear in conversation. How did you miss the point? It is easy to do when we view the world through our own lives. We can “miss the point” with our kids, spouse, parents, friends, careers, education, just about anything.

In verses 1-12 of chapter 1, Peter masterfully described a believer’s conversion and faith’s trials. He describes the new birth and inheritance (vss. 3-5). Peter details the purpose of “tested genuineness” of a believer’s faith (the glory and honor of Christ (vss. 6-7).

Peter emphasizes the process of salvation in the period between justification and glorification (vss. 8-9).

Verses 10-12, provide us with the example of the prophets. Then we see the transition, “Therefore.” In response to salvation, Peter moves us to the “Now What?”

I. Hope Right (1 Peter 1:13)

- A. Prepare—Get your mind right (gird up the loins of the mind—it was a metaphor (robe) from ancient times to “*tie up the loose ends*” or “*roll up the shirt sleeves*” and get ready to run/ready state for strenuous thinking/girding the mind for action). Preparing to run a race.
 - 1. **Luke 12:35–36 (ESV) — 35** *“Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, 36 and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks.*
 - 2. Our faith is not idle wishfulness or unfounded optimism. We are to live in such a way as to show forth the “*Living Hope*” within us.
- B. Practice – Get sober (Self-control) (**1 Peter 1:13, 4:7, 5:8**)
 - 1. Not walking in darkness; false teaching (**1 Thess 5:6-8**)
 - 2. Not under the influence (pictured in drunkenness).
 - 3. “The ability to keep one’s emotions and/or actions in check.” (**2 Tim 4:5**)
- C. Purpose – set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you....

II. Walk Right – (1 Peter 1:14-16)

- A. Holiness – represents a sense of “otherness,” “uniqueness,” or “sacredness.” Holiness signifies that God is wholly other, distinct and separate from everything He has made.
 - 1. **Exodus 15:11**, “*Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?*
 - 2. **Leviticus 11:44–45**, *For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. You shall not defile yourselves with any swarming thing that crawls on the ground. 45 For I am the Lord who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.*”
- B. Christian, understand your holiness is not some “spirituality;” rather holiness is manifested in our daily actions and a lifestyle that points directly to the creator!” (This is the meaning of being and bearing the “image of God.”)
 - 1. The Negative – not conformed to fleshly passions (*evil craving; inordinate affections*). (**1:14**)
 - 2. The Positive – all our conduct reflects the glory of God (the One who calls believers to faith) (**1:15-16**).

III. Focus Right (1 Peter 1:17-21)

- A. Fear – **1:17** (The Time of your exile (**Heb 11:8-13, esp. vs 13** Abraham))
 - 1. Fear - **Romans 11:20**, *That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear.*
 - 2. This fear is not abject terror, but the fear that a well-disciplined child expresses, ‘I would not dare do that...Dad would find out.’
- B. Priceless
 - 1. Salvation’s cost was not measured by silver and gold...
 - 2. But by the matchless, priceless, blood of Christ.

IV. Love Right (1 Peter 1:22-25)

- A. Love without expectation (22-23)
 - 1. **Romans 12:9**, *Let love be genuine*. [not pretended; sincerely felt and expressed; without hypocrisy]
 - 2. **Hebrews 13:1**, *Let brotherly love continue*. [Philadelphian love; sibling/brotherly love]
- B. Love with intensity (earnestly/diligently/seriously)
 - 1. **1 Peter 4:8**, *Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins*.
 - 2. **Luke 22:44**, *And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground*.
 - 3. “This love is hardly the emotional affection that the world calls “love,” but rather a unique kind of attitude and lifestyle that has resulted from having been born again by the word of God.”¹
- C. Love from pure heart
 - 1. The ability to love from a pure heart can only spring from a regenerated life.

Light for our Path

- In His parable of the faithful steward, Jesus told His hearers (Luke 12:48), “*From everyone who has been given much, much will be required.*”
- There is no greater gift than God’s forgiveness and salvation in Jesus Christ, nothing can demand a greater response.
- In our passage today, Peter has shifted from describing salvation to commanding those who have received it about their duties and responsibilities.
 - James 1:14-17, 21-26

¹ Himes, Paul A. 2017. *1 Peter*. Edited by Douglas Mangum, Elizabeth Vince, and Abigail Salinger. Lexham Research Commentaries. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.