

Nov 24, 2019



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Faith that is Focused 1 Peter 1:13-25

Lesson Background and Introduction

Not long ago, a friend told me he thought “Be ye holy; for I am holy” is the most neglected command in the church. The great apostle Peter did not think holiness should be neglected or dismissed. He held it as a core element to the gospel he preached. Our failures to be holy ultimately misrepresent our belief in the holiness of God. Since God is holy, then we should care about our own holiness. When we behave, think, or speak in unholy ways, we diminish our relationship with God. Are there holiness gaps in your life, pockets of sinful attitudes and actions you harbor and protect? Are there areas where a holy God is not welcome, where your privacy rights are paramount? Sometimes the holiness gaps are not private at all. Others can see uncontrolled anger, lack of integrity, shameful treatment of a spouse, etc. But no matter how private your hold is on your sinfulness, God is a witness (1 Peter 1:17). This lesson helps us understand why and how to live in stressful times and maintain our faith. We may not face imminent arrest and death for being Christians, but we have trials all the same. Many things call us to acknowledge them to be “lord” in place of Jesus. Peter's guidance helps us to focus on what is important, to live without fear, to strive for holiness, and to always remain faithful to our calling as followers of Jesus. His words encourage us to remain confident in Jesus, no matter what problems might threaten. Peter would do the same.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

Be Vigilant - The first century Christians suffered greatly. The Jewish leaders, like Paul before his conversion, killed a number of those who identified themselves with Christ. Some Roman politicians determined to completely rid their territory of Christians. Peter, one of Jesus' original disciples, endured hardships right along with his brothers and sisters in the faith. He spent time in jail, endured beatings, and was eventually martyred. But before Peter's death, he wrote a strong letter to those in his day and the future generations. He encouraged them to stay loyal to Christ. He started out expressing his appreciation for salvation, explaining the value of suffering, and thanking God for His marvelous plan, beginning with the Old Testament saints. He desired to see the church aggressively move forward, standing clean before the Lord, and displaying great compassion for God and one another.

Be Serious - Peter said to roll up your sleeves and work hard concerning the things of Christ. Think seriously and soundly about your commitment. Don't conform to the darkness of the world because remember, you've been delivered. Take control of how your mind is being used. Have an attitude of self-discipline and trust Jesus to the end.

Be Expectant - Peter used the word "hope" throughout his letter. God's grace is where His children are to set their expectations. One day this earthly existence will end. The Father will call all those who followed His Son home, to live eternally with Him.

Be Holy - Peter said to live a holy life, set apart for God, not for yourself. Keep your heavenly home in mind. God sets the standard for His people. Unlike the pagan gods who were adulterous, unpredictable, and merciless, the one true God is upright, just, and filled with compassion. This is how Christ's followers should be through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Be God's Vessel - God planned this all out before He created the world. This assured the new Christians that their belief in the Resurrection assured them of their salvation and eternal life. The more this truth is understood and experienced, the more one desires to be God's vessel in this unbelieving world.

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
As we focus on the Lord and all that we have in Him, even our most precious possessions can be held lightly

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:
Lord, open our eyes to see You and to embrace what is most important each day

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
For you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven
(Heb 10:34 NKJV)
(from "Our Daily Bread", Oct 28, 2015)

Series: Honoring God

UNIT: David Honors God

NEXT WEEK

David's Worship
(1 Peter 1:13-26)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Focused on a Holy Obedience (1 Peter 1:13-16)

Obedience through a prepared mind (13-14)

- Be prepared by guarding our mind (Prov 4:23-26)
- Prepared mind by being careful of all things that influence the mind (Matt 6:22-23)
- Prepared mind by being filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph 5:18)
- Prepared mind by bringing every thought under the control of God (2 Cor 10:5)
- Prepared mind by trusting God to control the mind (Rom 7:21-25).

Obedience through holy lives (15-16)

- Holy life that is as perfect as possible (Matt 5:48)
- Holy life that has been purified (2 Cor 7:1)
- Holy life that is lived in a manner worthy of the Gospel (Phil 1:27)
- Holy life that has been sanctified by God (1 Thess 4:3)
- Holy life that is powered by the grace of God (Titus 2:11-12)
- Holy life that lives in peace with all men (Heb 12:14)

Focused on Holiness (1 Peter 1:17-21)

Focus on holiness through the blood of Jesus (17-19)

- Blood that is of the covenant (Matt 26:28)
- Blood that brings redemption (Eph 1:7)
- Blood that cleanses our conscience from dead works (Heb 9:14)
- Blood that brings us near to God (Eph 2:13)
- Blood that justifies and saves us (Rom 5:9)
- Blood that cleanses and forgives us (Heb 9:22)
- Blood that make us holy (Heb 13:12)

Focus on holiness leading to eternal life (20-21)

- Eternal life that calls for persistence in doing good (Rom 2:7)
- Eternal life that is the result of being set free from sin (Rom 6:22)
- Eternal life that is the result of pleasing the Holy Spirit (Gal 6:8)
- Eternal life to which we are called (1 Tim 6:12)

Focused on the Word (1 Peter 1:22-25)

Focused on loving one another according to the Word (22)

- Loving others by associating with all people (Rom 12:16)
- Loving others by bearing with one another (Eph 4:2)
- Loving others by seeking the interest of others over self (Phil 2:3-4)
- Loving others is the greatest commandment (Mark 12:28-31)
- Loving others comes from a pure heart, sincere faith and good conscience (1 Tim 1:5)
- Loving others should be the only debt we should have (Rom 13:8)
- Loving others sums up the Law (Matt 7:12)
- Loving others in everything we do (1 Cor 16:14)

Focused on being born again through the Word (23)

- Born again as a kind of firstfruit (James 1:18)
- Born again to enter into the kingdom of God (John 3:5)
- Born again through the power of God, not man (John 1:12-13)
- Born again to see the kingdom of God (John 3:3)
- Born again through belief in Jesus (1 John 5:1)

Focused on the enduring Word (24-25)

- God's Word endures because it stands firm (Ps 119:89)
- God's Word endures because it stands forever (Isa 40:8)
- God's Word endures because it must be accomplished (Matt 5:18)
- God's Word endures because it will never pass away (Matt 24:35)
- God's Word endures because God's purposes will stand (Isa 46:10)