

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

BE HOLY

THE GOD WHO IS HOLY CALLS US TO BE HOLY

Praise the Lord, church! Good morning, everyone. Today, we are continuing our sermon series, HOLY, HOLY, HOLY. Last Sunday, we studied Isaiah chapter 6, where Isaiah saw the Lord sitting on His throne. The angels were crying out, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Armies.” We learned that God is holy, that His holiness reveals our sinfulness, that He provides cleansing, and that He calls His people to serve Him. We also learned that when King Uzziah died, his earthly throne became empty, but God's throne was never empty. Our God is always reigning.

Today, we are going to consider an important question. If God is holy, what does that mean for our lives? Is holiness something that belongs only to God? Or does God expect His children to reflect His holiness?

Please turn your Bibles to 1 Peter 1:13–21. Peter is writing to believers who were living as strangers and exiles. They were facing various trials and difficulties. They loved Jesus Christ even though they had not seen Him. They believed in Him and had received the wonderful gift of salvation.

In verses 3–12, Peter reminds them about their living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He speaks about their heavenly inheritance and the salvation God has prepared for them. Then, beginning in verse 13, Peter explains how they should live because of this salvation.

Church, this is very important. Peter does not begin by telling people how to earn salvation. He begins by reminding believers of what God has already done for them. Then he calls them to live differently.

Today, we will examine four important truths from this passage.

1. PREPARE — SET YOUR HOPE ON JESUS CHRIST

1 Peter 1:13

Peter begins verse 13 with the word “Therefore.” Whenever we see this word in Scripture, we should ask why it is there. Peter is connecting his instruction with everything he has already said about salvation.

God has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We have an inheritance that cannot perish, spoil, or fade. We may experience trials today, but our future is secure in Christ.

Therefore, Peter tells believers to prepare their minds for action, remain sober-minded, and set their hope completely on the grace that will be brought when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Notice that the main command is to set our hope on Jesus Christ.

Church, where is your hope today? Is your hope in your job? Is it in your financial situation? Is it in your health? Is it in your family? All these things are important, but they cannot provide the eternal hope that Jesus Christ gives us.

Sometimes our circumstances change unexpectedly. We may lose something valuable. We may experience sickness, disappointment, rejection, or uncertainty. But our hope in Christ remains because He is faithful.

Peter reminds us that we have already experienced God's grace through salvation, and we are waiting for the completion of God's saving work when Jesus Christ returns.

We have not seen Jesus Christ with our physical eyes, but we believe in Him. We love Him. We trust His promises. And one day, we will see Him.

Our future hope should influence how we live today. We should not allow temporary difficulties or worldly desires to control our lives. Instead, we must prepare our minds, remain spiritually alert, and continue trusting Jesus Christ.

Application: When you face difficulties, do not forget your eternal hope. Remember that your present circumstances are temporary, but God's promises are eternal.

2. CHANGE — DO NOT RETURN TO YOUR FORMER LIFE

1 Peter 1:14

Peter continues by addressing believers as obedient children. He tells them not to conform to the desires they followed when they lived in ignorance.

Notice that Peter calls them God's children before commanding them to change their behavior.

This teaches us an important truth: We do not become God's children by living holy lives. We pursue holy lives because we are already His children through faith in Jesus Christ.

Before salvation, we lived according to our own desires. We did not fully understand God's holiness or His will for our lives. But when God saved us, our relationship with Him changed.

We now belong to Him.

Church, when we belong to God, our lives should not remain the same. The way we speak should change. The way we think should change. The way we treat others should change. Our priorities and desires should increasingly reflect God's Word.

Think about a person who comes to Christ but continues living exactly as before, without repentance or any desire to obey God. That should concern us because genuine faith produces a changed direction in life.

This does not mean Christians become perfect immediately. We still face temptation. We still struggle with sin. Sometimes we fail. But the Holy Spirit works in believers to help them grow in obedience.

Peter is telling us not to return to the former way of life from which Christ has rescued us.

Perhaps before knowing Christ, someone struggled with dishonesty, anger, pride, jealousy, or unforgiveness. After coming to Christ, those temptations may still appear, but we should no longer surrender to them as though nothing has changed.

Church, salvation is not merely about receiving a future place in heaven. It also brings a new relationship with God that should transform our present lives.

Application: Ask yourself whether there are old habits or sinful desires that you are allowing to control your life. Bring them before God in repentance and seek His help to change.

3. BE HOLY — REFLECT THE CHARACTER OF GOD

1 Peter 1:15–17

Now we come to the central statement of today's sermon. Peter says, "But as the one who called you is holy, you also are to be holy in all your conduct." Then he quotes God's command: "Be holy, because I am holy."

Church, what does holiness mean?

Holiness includes being set apart for God. God Himself is completely holy, morally pure, and unlike anyone else. He is without sin.

When God calls believers to be holy, He calls us to belong to Him and live in a way that reflects His character.

Being holy does not simply mean being different from other people. It means being set apart for God's purposes.

Notice that Peter says we should be holy in all our conduct.

He does not say to be holy only during Sunday worship. He does not say to be holy only when we are praying or reading the Bible. He says to be holy in all our conduct.

That includes our homes, workplaces, friendships, conversations, and private lives.

Sometimes we may appear spiritual inside the church but behave differently outside the church. We may speak kindly to people on Sunday morning but become impatient with our family members later that afternoon.

Church, holiness should not be limited to a church building. It should influence every part of our lives.

In verse 17, Peter reminds believers that we call upon God as our Father, but He is also the impartial Judge. Therefore, we should live with reverent fear during our temporary residence on earth.

What does it mean to fear God?

For believers, this includes reverence, awe, and serious respect for His holiness. It does not mean that we must live in constant terror that Christ's sacrifice is insufficient.

God is our loving Father, but that does not mean our conduct is unimportant.

We should never treat His grace casually.

Peter also describes our lives on earth as temporary. We are strangers and exiles whose ultimate hope is with God.

This does not mean we must earn our place in heaven through good behavior. Our salvation rests in Jesus Christ. Rather, because we belong to God, we should live faithfully during our time on earth.

Application: Let us examine our character. Are we reflecting God's holiness in our words, attitudes, decisions, and relationships? When others observe our lives, do they see something of the character of Christ?

4. REMEMBER — YOU WERE REDEEMED BY THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST

1 Peter 1:18–21

Now Peter reminds believers of the foundation of their new lives.

He says that we were not redeemed with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Jesus Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish.

Church, people consider silver and gold very valuable. People work hard to earn money and acquire possessions. Some people believe that wealth can solve every problem.

But Peter reminds us that even the greatest earthly wealth cannot purchase our salvation.

Silver and gold are perishable. They cannot remove our sins. They cannot reconcile us to God. They cannot give us eternal life.

Our redemption required something infinitely more precious: the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ.

Peter describes Jesus as a lamb without defect or blemish. This reminds us of the sacrificial system in the Old Testament and points to Jesus as the sinless Savior who gave His life for sinners.

Why did Jesus shed His blood?

Because we could not save ourselves.

Our good works could never pay the price of our redemption. Our religious activities could never remove our guilt. We needed a Savior.

And Jesus Christ gave Himself for us.

Church, think about this wonderful truth. We were not redeemed by something we could earn. We were redeemed by what Jesus Christ accomplished through His death and resurrection.

Therefore, we should never think that holiness is the price we pay to receive salvation.

Jesus has already paid the price for our redemption. Holiness is our response to His saving grace.

Peter also says that Christ was foreknown before the foundation of the world and revealed in these last times for our sake.

Our salvation was not an accident. God's saving purpose in Christ was established before the creation of the world.

In verse 21, Peter reminds us that God raised Jesus Christ from the dead and gave Him glory so that our faith and hope would be in God.

Church, without the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Christian hope would be empty. But Jesus is alive!

Because He lives, we have hope. Because He lives, we can trust God's promises. Because He lives, we look forward to the completion of our salvation.

Notice how beautifully Peter connects the beginning and the end of this passage.

In verse 13, he tells us to set our hope on the grace that will be brought when Jesus Christ is revealed.

In verse 21, he reminds us that our faith and hope are in God, who raised Jesus from the dead.

Our holy living is surrounded by the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

Application: Whenever you struggle with temptation, remember the price of your redemption. Remember that Jesus gave His life for you. You belong to Him. Let that truth encourage you to turn away from sin and live for His glory.

CONCLUSION — BE HOLY BECAUSE YOU BELONG TO GOD

Church, today we have learned four important truths from 1 Peter 1:13–21.

First, PREPARE — Set your hope completely on Jesus Christ.

Second, CHANGE — Do not return to your former sinful desires.

Third, BE HOLY — Reflect the character of the God who called you.

Fourth, REMEMBER — You were redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

As we conclude, I want us to remember the connection between last Sunday's sermon and today's message.

Last Sunday, Isaiah saw the holiness of God and recognized his own sinfulness. Today, Peter reminds us that the holy God has called us to be His holy people.

But we cannot earn salvation by trying to live holy lives. Salvation is God's gift through Jesus Christ.

When we trust in Christ, we belong to Him. And because we belong to Him, we should desire to live in a way that pleases Him.

Perhaps someone here is struggling with sin. Perhaps you have been following old desires. Perhaps you have become spiritually careless. Today, God's Word calls you to repentance and renewed obedience.

Do not depend on your own strength. Turn to Jesus Christ. Remember His sacrifice. Depend on His grace and the power of the Holy Spirit.

And if you have never trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior, I encourage you to turn from your sin and place your faith in Him. He died for sinners and rose again. Forgiveness and salvation are found in Him.

Church, let us carry this truth into the coming week:

We do not pursue holiness to become God's children. We pursue holiness because we are His children, redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

May the Lord bless you!