

Refuge City Church — January 17, 2021 “Hope-Filled Life” (1 Peter 1:13-25)

Introduction

- Last week, we talked about how we need to live in **hope**, for our salvation is in God...not this world. **[vs. 3: he has caused us to be born again to a living hope...]**
 - We live in a post-Christian nation. We must live and work in the grace of God, not in Americanized, cultural, and/or and political philosophy of man.
 - Trials are inevitable, so we live and operate in **Hope**.
- Today, we discuss another aspect of what we are to pursue and how we are to live.
- **Holiness** = set apart by and for God.
 - It is not religious appearance.
 - Jesus warned us against the appearance of holiness as He condemned the religious elite.
 - **Matthew 23:5**, “Everything they do is for show. On their arms they wear extra wide prayer boxes with Scripture verses inside, and they wear robes with extra long tassels.”
 - **Matthew 23:25-28**, “...For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence...First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean...For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people’s bones and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”
- **REMINDER:** How we then live in this world, by His grace, with faith in God, is a *response* to our salvation and future HOPE...Not a test to see if you’re good enough to make it to Heaven.

Scripture Reading (1 Peter 1:13-21)

13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. **14** As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, **15** but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, **16** since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” **17** And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, **18** knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. **20** He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you **21** who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

- “Prepare your minds for action.”
 - What is it **[action]** that you are going to do?
 - **Jeremiah 1:17**, “But you, dress yourself for work; arise, and say to them everything that I command you.”
 - Why do we as parents get concerned when our kid’s shoelaces are untied?

- 1) Protection from harm. 2) They'll be able to operate their little lives a little more effectively.
- **[How we spiritually operate]** **Nehemiah 4:17**, "...each labored on the work with one hand and held his weapon with the other."
- There is work to be done! How do you approach your work day? How do you approach waking up to care for your family/children?
 - I remember as a coach, the locker room prior to a big game were some of the quietest moments. Mental preparation was happening.
 - Do you prepare in the same way, with the same mindset when you walk in to church?
- "Be sober-minded" = calm, yet vigilant **[alert]**
- "Do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance"
 - **Romans 12:2**, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."
 - **Titus 3:1-5**, "Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,"
- This is the beautiful thing about our salvation in Jesus! We've been set free from sin! There is nothing that states you have to continue to look like and act like the world to bring the Good News.
 - **Galatians 5:19-21, 24**, "Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God... **And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.**"
 - **Ephesians 5:3-5, 8**, "But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God... **for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.**"
 - **Colossians 3:5-10**, "Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices **and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.**"
 - **James 3:14-15; 4:2**, "But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is

earthly, unspiritual, demonic... **By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom... You do not have, because you do not ask.**"

- **Matthew 15:18-19**, "But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander."
- This is why we **MUST** seek to renew our minds, take our thoughts captive, and set our minds on the things above!
 - We are to live with our hope set on glory, and **live set apart** as holy children of God!
 - "Be holy in all your conduct."
 - **1 John 3:3**, "And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure."
 - **Philippians 3:8**, "Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ."
- So, all that said, How do we truly do this?!
 - **Option #1**: Just stop doing worldly things. Just stop sinning.
 - **Luke 11:24-26**, "When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first."
 - **Option #2**: It's not what you stop doing. It's more about what you start doing!
 - "As it is written": The paramount importance is the Word of God in our lives!
 - **Psalms 119:9-11**, "How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."
 - **Hebrews 12:14**, "**Strive** for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord."

Scripture Reading (1 Peter 1:22-25)

22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, **23** since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; **24** for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, **25** but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

- We are to act under control with the understanding of Who you are acting on behalf of. Amen?
- We represent God Almighty by how we live in this world.
- As 'exiles/aliens/strangers/passers by in this world, to represent a holy God, we must seek to understand what that means.
- The only way to do so is to make the Word of God as much a part of our lives as we can. Live in it. Breathe it in. Feed on it. It.Is.Life.

Response/Prayer

1. We took communion last week, but I urge us all again to think on what Christ did for our salvation.
2. Consider the following poem by Francis Havergal:
“I gave My life for thee, My precious blood I shed; That thou might ransomed be, And quickened from the dead. I gave, I gave, My life for thee, What hast thou given for Me?”
3. What do you need to do to “Prepare your mind for action”? What changes do you need to make to seek purity and holiness?

Closing Prayer

“For our works have no value unless they are united with faith, and our faith has no value unless it is united with works. May God grant us the ability to see how much we cost him, to see that the servant is not greater than the Master, to see that we must work if we would enjoy his glory. For this reason we must pray, lest we continually enter into temptation.” [Teresa of Avila]