

1 Peter 1v17-21: The link between our hope and our holiness (2)

¹⁷ Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. ¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ²⁰ He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹ Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

Peter urges us to continue to fix our minds on heaven, for that shapes how we live on earth. Here he reminds us of a reality that we can so easily forget: the coming judgment day. One day each person will stand before God as judge.

Christians, those who call on God as our Father, know this. Most people around us think this world is all that there is and scoff at the idea that one day they will have to give an account to God. So, the way we live during our very brief time in this world will appear 'strange' or 'foreign' to others. For we live in an attitude of reverent fear of God, rather than 'couldn't care less' about God.

We find it hard to remember this day by day. Which is why we need to constantly set before our minds the realities Peter reminds us of in v18-20. Take these truths and press them home to your hearts in prayer like this:

Lord you are my Father in heaven, you are the one who will judge my life and the lives of all who I know. I am sorry that so often I continue to live for myself, like everyone else, thinking life is about me, and my honour, my comfort. This is so futile. Through this coronavirus you have shown us all the reality that this world is broken and groaning. Forgive me when I forget this and think this world is it.

Thank you that you have set me free from being a slave to the way everyone else lives. Thank you that just as you rescued your people from slavery in Egypt through the blood of the Passover lamb, so you have redeemed me through the precious blood of Jesus Christ. You have brought me into your eternal plan of salvation – oh, how I thank you for showing me that my life in this world has eternal significance!

Please help me today to live with this glorious hope at the forefront of my mind, so that in all that I do I would be seeking your honour, your glory. Please open up opportunities today for me to speak to others of the eternal hope that I have because of Christ alone.

In Jesus name,

Amen

