

1 Peter 1v13-16: The link between our hope and our holiness

¹³ Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

How much we think about heaven will define the way we live on earth. That’s what Peter says here: there’s a link between our hope and our holiness.

But keeping the things of Christ, eternity, heaven (and hell) at the forefront of our minds is not easy for us. It is not natural to us. It is super-natural.

In v1-12 Peter has reminded us of all that God has done for us in Christ, of his eternal plan of salvation and our glorious inheritance to come.

Therefore, v13, in light of all that we know to be true, we need to have our minds alert and fully sober – ie we need to make a conscious effort each day to think about the things of God, especially the grace we will receive when Jesus Christ returns to this world and brings us home to glory.

This happens as we listen to the voice of our Father, through his word the Bible, as we speak to him in prayer, as we receive encouragement from our brothers and sisters in Christ to keep our eyes on him through phone calls/whatsapp messages, zoom groups and church online.

We are all busy, but we know that we make time for what we really think is of greatest importance. Peter wants us to make a sober, clear headed-assessment: if we choose to make time to think about Christ and his kingdom each day, then that will have a massive impact upon the way we live in this world, for the glory of God. And if we choose not to, then that will mean our lives will look much the same as everyone else’s lives around us, those who are living in ignorance of God and the reality of Christ’s return and are living for their own desires (v14).

God wants us, as his obedient children, to be holy, that is distinctively different from those who are not part of his family yet – just as He is holy, utterly different from us (v15-16). But the way to grow in holiness is not ‘try hard to be good’, but ‘think hard about our hope’.

Prayer:

Lord God, you know how easy I find it to fill my mind with almost anything but you and your glorious Son Jesus Christ. I want to live a life on earth that points others to the reality of heaven. So, make me holy by renewing my hope in Christ and all he’s done for me this day.

In Jesus’ name

Daily Devotions – 13.05.2020

Amen