

## The Admonition to Be Holy

Over the last week or so, I have had to come to grips with both the numbers and the types of people, professing to be followers of the Lord, who simply do not seem to either know or want to live out this creed.

The whole experience revolved around the provision for several groups of young people for an event, an event that would bring the kids much joy. But the "grown folk" could not seem to get their acts together, laying aside their own personal predispositions and prejudices against one-another in order to accomplish a greater good. And what's even more astonishing, revolting, etc., is that every single one of the people I'm talking about are members of the clergy.

So therefore, although we should expect them to be familiar with the following Scripture (particularly v.v. 13-25), apparently they were, and are, not:

### 1 Peter 1 (NIV)

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, <sup>2</sup> who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood:

Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

### Praise to God for a Living Hope

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup> These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

<sup>10</sup> Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, <sup>11</sup> trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. <sup>12</sup> It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

### Be Holy

<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. <sup>15</sup> But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; <sup>16</sup> for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

<sup>17</sup> Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. <sup>18</sup> 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, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. <sup>20</sup> He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

<sup>22</sup> Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. <sup>23</sup> For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. <sup>24</sup> For,

"All people are like grass,  
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;  
the grass withers and the flowers fall,  
<sup>25</sup> but the word of the Lord endures forever."

And this is the word that was preached to you.

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I suppose that, like Law School, Theological Seminaries may not require a base understanding of some of the more important Scriptures. That's really unfortunate if it's true. But the evidence is there.

I pray that we who are up-&-coming leaders will study the Scriptures with a great emphasis on following the Lord, rather than trying so fervently to promote our own personal preferences, prejudicial justifications and un-Christlike agendas. And I hope the requirements for admission into leadership positions become a lot more stringent.

In my area of expertise, I have yet to find one young person who's emotional and psychological, and sometimes criminal, "issues" are not traceable back to their "grown-folk" influences. And that's the real tragedy.

How do we ever teach them what we ourselves cannot seem to put into practice.

On the brighter side, there were a few of us who, with no human effort, put the whole matter into the hands of the Lord, and He worked it all out so that the the young people we shepherd had an incredible time at the event. And they, praise the Lord, never knew what really went on behind the scenes.

So the struggle continues, and on so many levels.

I hope you each have an amazing week!!

- Jack