

Foundation of Christian Living: Hope, Holiness, Fear

I Peter 1:13-21 / January 23, 2020

GOD BE BLESSED: Grace, Joy, and Light of God's Blessings

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

GRACE OF GOD'S BLESSINGS

1. who according to his great mercy
2. has caused us to be born again
3. to a living hope
4. through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
5. into an inheritance imperishable and undefiled and unfading, reserved in heaven for you
6. who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time,

JOY OF GOD'S BLESSINGS

7. in which you rejoice greatly,
8. although now for a short time, if necessary, you are distressed by various trials,
9. so that the genuineness of your faith, more valuable than gold that is passing away, but is tested by fire,
10. may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ,
11. whom, although you have not seen, you love; in whom now you believe, although you do not see him, and you rejoice greatly with joy inexpressible and full of glory,
12. obtaining the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

LIGHT OF GOD'S BLESSINGS

13. Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace meant for you sought and made careful inquiry,
14. investigating for what person or which time the Spirit of Christ in them
15. was indicating when he testified beforehand to the sufferings with reference to Christ and the glories after these things,
16. to whom it was revealed that they were serving not themselves but you with reference to the same things
17. which now have been announced to you through those who proclaimed the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven,
18. things into which angels desire to look.

GOD AS OUR KING: We Prepare for Hope (1:13)

Therefore, when you have **prepared** your minds for action *by* being self-controlled, **put your hope** completely in the grace

Be Prepared

ELIJAH: [In no time] the heavens grew black with clouds and wind, and there was heavy rain. Ahab rode and he went to Jezreel, but the hand of Yahweh was on Elijah; **he girded up his loins and ran before Ahab as one comes to Jezreel.** (I Kings 18:46, Lexham English Bible)

JEREMIAH: But you, you must **gird your loins, and stand**, and speak to them all that I command you. [Do not be afraid of them], or I will shatter you [before] them. (Jeremiah 1:17, Lexham English Bible)

PAUL: Finally, become strong in the Lord and in the might of his strength. **Put on the full armor of God**, so that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil, because our struggle is not against blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Because of this, take up the full armor of God, in order that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand. (Ephesians 6:10-13, Lexham English Bible)

TIMOTHY: If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather **train yourself for godliness**; for while bodily training is of some value, **godliness is of value in every way**, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. **For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God**, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. (I Timothy 4: 6-10 ESV)

Share in the suffering as a **good soldier** of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. An **athlete** is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. It is the **hard-working farmer** who ought to have the first share of the crops. (2 Timothy 2:3-6, ESV)

Preparation of Our Minds

For those who are living according to the flesh are intent on the things of the flesh, but those who are living according to the Spirit are intent on the things of the Spirit. **For the mindset of the flesh is death, but the mindset of the Spirit is life and peace**, because the mindset of the flesh is enmity toward God, for it is not subjected to the law of God, for it is not able to do so, and those who are in the flesh are not able to please God. (Romans 8:8-9, Lexham English Bible)

And do not be conformed to this age, but **be transformed by the renewal of your mind**, so that you may approve what is the good and well-pleasing and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:2, Lexham English Bible)

But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard about him, and you were taught by him (just as truth is in Jesus), that you take off, according to your former way of life, the old man, who is being destroyed according to deceitful desires, **be renewed in the spirit of your mind**, and put on the new man (in accordance with God), who is created in righteousness and holiness from the truth. (Ephesians 4:20-24, Lexham English Bible)

Therefore, if you have been raised together with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **Set your mind on the things above, not on the things on earth**. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. (Colossians 3:1-2, Lexham English Bible)

that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Hope in the Revelation of Jesus

I, John, your brother and co-sharer in the affliction and kingdom and steadfastness in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony about Jesus. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a great sound like a trumpet saying, "**What you see, write in a book** and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

And I turned to see the voice which was speaking with me, and when I* turned, I saw seven gold lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching to the feet and girded around his* chest with a golden belt, and his head and hair were white like wool, white as snow, and his eyes were like a fiery flame, and his feet were like fine bronze when it has been fired in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many waters, and he had in his right hand seven stars, and a sharp double-edged sword coming out of his mouth, and his face was like the sun shining in its strength. (Revelation 1:9-16, Lexham English Bible)

GOD AS OUR FATHER: We Conform to God's Holiness (1:14-16)
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As obedient children, **do not be conformed** to the former desires *you used to conform to* in your ignorance, but as the one who called you is holy, *you* yourselves **be holy in all your conduct**, for it is written, "You will be holy, because I *am* holy."

Holiness of God: Examples of God's Presence

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. (Leviticus 19:2, ESV)

1) The Sabbath

So God blessed the seventh day and **made it holy**, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation. (Genesis 2:3, ESV)

2) Mount Sinai

DESERT OF THE SHEEP Contrasted with THE MOUNTAIN OF GOD

And Moses was a shepherd with the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the west of the desert, and he came to the mountain of God, to Horeb. And the angel of Yahweh appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush, and he looked, and there was the bush burning with fire, but the bush was not being consumed. And Moses said, "Let me turn aside and see this great sight. Why does the bush not burn up?"

HOLY GROUND OF BURNING BUSH Contrasted with THE UNHOLY GROUND OF EGYPT

And Yahweh saw that he turned aside to see, and God called to him from the midst of the bush, and he said, "Moses, Moses." And he said, "Here I am." And he said, "You must not come near to here. Take off your sandals from on your feet, because **the place** on which you are standing, **it is holy ground**." And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face because he was afraid of looking at God. And Yahweh said, "Surely I have

seen the misery of my people who are in Egypt, and I have heard their cry of distress because of their oppressors, for I know their sufferings.

FROM EGYPT (UNHOLY) TO THE GOOD LAND (HOLY):

And I have come down to deliver them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up from this land to a good and wide land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. And now, look, the cry of distress of the Israelites has come to me, and also I see the oppression with which the Egyptians are oppressing them. And now come, and I will send you to Pharaoh, and you must bring my people, the Israelites, out from Egypt.” (Exodus 3:1-10, Lexham English Bible)

3) Tabernacle’s Holy Place and Most Holy

And you shall hang the veil from the clasps, and bring the ark of the testimony in there within the veil. And the veil shall separate for you **the Holy Place from the Most Holy**. You shall put the mercy seat on the ark of the testimony in the Most Holy Place. And you shall set the table outside the veil, and the lampstand on the south side of the tabernacle opposite the table, and you shall put the table on the north side. (Exodus 26:33-35, ESV)

4) High Priest Garments

And **you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty**. You shall speak to all the skillful, whom I have filled with a spirit of skill, that they make Aaron’s garments to consecrate him for my priesthood. These are the garments that they shall make: a breastpiece, an ephod, a robe, a coat of checker work, a turban, and a sash. They shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons to serve me as priests. They shall receive gold, blue and purple and scarlet yarns, and fine twined linen. (Exodus 28:2-5, ESV)

5) Anointing Oil

And you shall say to the people of Israel, **‘This shall be my holy anointing oil throughout your generations**. It shall not be poured on the body of an ordinary person, and you shall make no other like it in composition. It is holy, and it shall be holy to you. Whoever compounds any like it or whoever puts any of it on an outsider shall be cut off from his people.’” (Exodus 30:31-33, ESV)

6). Holy Spirit

in whom also you, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, in whom also when you believed you were **sealed** with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:13-14, Lexham English Bible)

GOD AS OUR JUDGE: We Live in Fear (1:17-21)
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And if you call on *him as* Father who judges impartially according to each one’s work, **conduct yourselves with fear** during the time of your temporary residence,

Redemption: *because you* know that you were redeemed from your futile way of life inherited from your ancestors

Attornment: not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like *that* of an unblemished and spotless lamb

Predestination: who was foreknown before the foundation of the world,

Revelation: but has been revealed in these last times for you who through *him are* believing in God,

Resurrection: who raised *him* from the dead and gave *him* glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Three Examples of Fearing God

The People of Israel: Red Sea

GOD'S JUDGMENT:

And Yahweh said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, and let the waters return over the Egyptians, over their chariots, and over their charioteers." And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned [at daybreak] to its normal level, and the Egyptians were fleeing [because of it], and Yahweh swept the Egyptians into the middle of the sea. And the waters returned and covered the chariots and the charioteers—all the army of Pharaoh coming after them into the sea. Not [even] one survived among them.

GOD'S GRACE:

But the [Israelites] walked on the dry land in the middle of the sea. The waters were a wall for them on their right and on their left. And Yahweh saved Israel on that day from the hand of Egypt, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the shore of the sea. And Israel saw the great hand that Yahweh displayed against Egypt, and

the people feared Yahweh, and they believed in Yahweh and in Moses his servant. (Exodus 14:26-31; Lexham English Bible)

The Early Church: Ananias and Sapphira

GOD'S GRACE:

For there was not even anyone needy among them, because all those who were owners of plots of land or houses were selling them and bringing the proceeds of the things that were sold and placing them at the feet of the apostles. And it was being distributed to each as anyone had need. So Joseph, who was called Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated "son of encouragement"), a Levite of Cyprus by nationality, sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and placed it at the feet of the apostles. (Acts 4:34-37; Lexham English Bible)

GOD'S JUDGMENT:

And when Ananias heard these words, he fell down and died. **And great fear came on all those who heard about it.** So the young men stood up, wrapped him up, and carried him out and buried him. And it happened that there was an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you both were paid this much for the piece of land." And she said, "Yes, this much." So Peter said to her, "How is it that it was agreed by you two to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out!" And immediately she fell down at his feet and died. So when the young men came in, they found her dead, and carried her out and buried her with her husband. **And great fear came on the whole church and on all who heard about these things.** (Acts 5:6-11 Lexham English Bible)

The Return of Jesus: The Final Judgment

GOD'S GRACE:

And I looked, and behold, the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with him one hundred forty-four thousand who had his name and the name of his Father written on their foreheads. And I heard a sound from heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder, and the sound that I heard was like harpists playing on their harps. And they were singing something like a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders, and no one was able to learn the song except the one hundred forty-four thousand who had been bought from the earth.

These are those who have not been defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These were bought from humanity as first fruits to God and to the Lamb, and in their mouth a lie was not found; they are blameless.

And I saw another angel flying directly overhead, having an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who reside on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and language and people, saying with a loud voice,

"Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship the one who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and the springs of water!" (Revelation 14:1-7, Lexham English Bible)

GOD'S JUDGMENT:

And another second angel followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, who caused all the nations to drink from the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality."

And another third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself also will drink of the wine of the anger of God that has been mixed full strength in the cup of his wrath, and will be tortured with fire and sulphur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torture went up forever and ever, and those who worshiped the beast and his image did not have rest day and night, along with anyone who received the mark of his name. (Revelation 14:8-11, Lexham English Bible)