

LIVING HOLY

Our Past Election and Future Hope Fuels Our Present Pursuit of Holiness

Holiness is living life GOD'S WAY.

How do we continually become holy in a world that is increasingly hostile to God and the gospel?

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. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." 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, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you 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. Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

1 Peter 1:13-25 (ESV)

So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2:1-10 (ESV)

OUR PAST ELECTION

... *To those who are elect exiles...* " (1:1)

- We are eternally LOVED and CHOSEN by God.
- We are STRANGERS in a Foreign Land.

AND FUTURE HOPE (v. 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. (1:13)

- We are to be a FUTURE-minded people.
- We are to be a SOBER-minded people.

FUELS OUR PRESENT PURSUIT OF HOLINESS (v. 15 & 16)

- Step 1: We pursue holiness as we FEAR THE LORD.
...conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile... (1:17)
- Step 2: We pursue holiness as we REMEMBER THE GOSPEL.
knowing that you were ransomed... with the precious blood of Christ. (1:18-19)
- Step 3: We pursue holiness as we LOVE ONE ANOTHER.
... love one another earnestly from a pure heart. (1:22)
- Step 4: We pursue holiness as we ENGAGE GOD'S WORD. (v. 1:23, 2:2)
you have been born again... through the living and abiding word of God. (1:23)

The word of the Lord remains forever. And this word is the good news that was preached to you. (1:25)

- Step 5: We pursue holiness as we PUT AWAY SIN.
So put away all malice, and all deceit, and hypocrisy, and envy, and all slander. (2:1)
- Step 6: We pursue holiness as we COME TO JESUS.
As you come to Him... (2:4)
- Step 7: We pursue holiness as we PROCLAIM HIS NAME. (2:9-10)
But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (2:9-10)

Where are you on the staircase?

In light of where you are, what's your next step?