

1 Peter 1:13 through 2:3

What is holiness?

Set apart; don't lash out and don't give up

1:13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given to you when Jesus Christ is revealed. **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."

- **13** He tells them to be prepared
 - They need to prepare for more suffering, and they need to prepare to endure. He doesn't make any promises about better times to come; he tells them to maintain self-control and says "set your hope fully on the grace to be given to you when Jesus Christ is revealed."
 - Don't just survive. Thrive.
 - Hope in His grace.
- **14** Be obedient children
 - They've been saved **from** sin **into** righteousness; they are no longer ignorant, but wise.
 - Not only are they forgiven of their sin; they understand sin and how to avoid it.
 - God has brought them out of their old ways, and Peter exhorts them to not renounce faith or turn to war; instead, he tells them they must love as hard as they can.
 - Peter essentially says "You were barbarians, but now you're citizens in the kingdom of God. Act accordingly."
 - If we do not live set apart from our old ways of self-service and fear, then we will stumble and fall.
- **15- 16** "Be holy" is an imperative sentence
 - Leviticus 19:2 — Give the following instructions to the entire community of Israel. You must be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.
 - He set rules, and these rules were as varied and illustrative as the situations that the Israelites would face in their daily lives. In each of these situations, God told them to be holy, like He is.
 - Peter says that this still applies to the Christians under persecution; in every choice they make, they must choose holiness.

1:17 Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers 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 way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, **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.

- **17** The Father judges impartially; if they don't choose holiness **15-16**, they

choose incorrectly.

- The people he speaks to are strangers in the land. They aren't welcome. What they believe in sets them apart; how they act makes them weird. They're hated. As a result, they're persecuted.
 - In China, people can be shot in the street for their faith, but in America, the biggest threat is an anonymous insult on the Internet.
 - If they aren't set apart in their ways—if they don't stick out—then they aren't living in holiness. They need to choose holiness, no matter what the earthly cost is.
 - When they choose holiness, they show that their faith **matters**.
 - Their motivation is fear. They must fear for themselves. They must fear the wrath of God more than they fear the wrath of Nero, because they will serve who they fear.
 - **18-19** They were redeemed from their empty lives by the precious blood of Christ.
 - Not by anything temporary. Currency crumbles, but salvation stays.
 - Their inheritance in Christ is everlasting and fulfilling.
 - Their salvation is precious—more valuable than anything in this world. The love of our God and savior is ours forever.
 - **20** He created the world through Christ, then he revealed him to us. In this revelation Peter says they received three things:
 - Confirmation—they could trust that God had the power to keep his promises
 - Salvation—they receive hope for something better after their time in this world has ended
 - Expectation—They can expect God to follow through on his new promise: the opening of his kingdom's doors and the return of Jesus Christ.
 - **21** Through Christ they see and believe in God
 - God showed his power and grace through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
 - They can place their faith and hope in God because he overcame their sin for them and he will love them through their hardships.
 - He tells them to choose holiness because the battle is already won. They must celebrate with love and joy.
- 1:22** Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. **23** For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. **24** For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, **25** but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.
- **22** Love one another:
 - We have been purified; we were soiled, but now we're as clean as Christ because of his gift to us.

- They way they show their gift is through love. They must love deeply and authentically from their very hearts. Both their brothers and their enemies.
- They must choose holiness, because when they choose holiness, they choose God
- **23** since you have been born again
 - They've been born again. Their old lives are over and they are new creations—new beings.
 - They are not born of perishable seed—the flesh—but of imperishable seed—the Holy Spirit.
 - As a result, their souls will not die, but they will rest eternally in heaven.
- **24-25** Salvation has no expiration
 - The things of this world **will** fade. Their earthly lives will pass. Their creations and sufferings will lose value and relevance. But the word of the lord, specifically the good news that was preached to them—the gospel—will last forever. He says "Take joy! Your God is endless, and your rest and peace will last forever!"
- The only way to maintain hope and inspiration in times of trouble is to not only survive, but to thrive. They have to fight the desire to fight or flee and simply love their neighbors.

2:1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. **2** Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, **3** now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

- **1** Put away your sins; they no longer become you.
 - We're of Christ now, and so must strive to live in a Christ-like manner.
 - They must turn away from **malice** and **wish only good** for the people around them. Bitterness and revenge corrupt their very souls and paint a broken picture of Christ in their minds and in their actions.
 - Deceit damages the people around them. When they conceal the truth by any means, they lead people astray and they darken the path before them.
 - Hypocrisy violates the image of Christ. If they preach holiness and salvation—if they call themselves slaves to God—but live as slaves to their selfishness, they teach people two things: their salvation isn't true, and their sin is permissible.
 - Envy raises the things of this world on pedestals and lifts them above God. When they desire the security, wealth, or reputation of nonbelievers, they say that God's gifts plan for us are not enough, and that they know better what they should possess and seek.
 - When they speak ill of their brothers and sisters or slander the names of the people around them, they spread not love, but hate and disgust. If they don't show love, then **they don't show Christ.**
- **2** They're newborns; they have new lives in the Spirit.
 - They must crave the Holy Spirit. They must seek the food found in the Spirit and nourish their souls with God's Word so that they can not

just survive, but thrive. God will provide them a foundation to stand upon so that they can radiate holiness.

- **3** They've tasted salvation and they've known the Lord.
 - He is good, He is grace, and He is God. He's all we need. As we suffer in this world, we must take refuge and strength in our Holy Lord.
 - Being a Christian isn't always fun, and it's definitely not easy, but it's worth it.
 - Death to life. Overwhelming joy.
 - We must choose holiness. That way, when we get knocked down or when the idols of money, careers, influence, and relationships come tumbling down in hardship, we can still have hope in our Lord and savior who loves us before, throughout, and beyond the confines of time.