

20180923 Preparation for Action

Opening Thought

When- experience difficulties- know God will help.

Psa 46:1...A very present help in trouble.

However-challenge-what do we do in- meantime?

I heard someone pray this prayer ...

O Lord, I know you will help us; but will you please help us before you will help us?

Introduction

Much talk about- personal/religious freedoms.

Many of these freedoms are under attack today.

Unfortunately our conversations are often shaped

by emotional reactions to perceived injustices

w/complete disregard- facts/objective truth.

Freedom has become- ability to do what we want

to do as opposed to what is- right thing to do.

This of course raises the question- how do we

know what is the right thing to do?

Apart from God/Christ- there can be no clear

sense of righteous behavior or objective truth.

The freedom people are looking for apart from

Christ- often becomes slavery- carnal desires.

Men are governed by their old sinful nature.

Truth will ultimately lead to freedom, but not all freedom will lead to truth.

It is in Christ that we experience truth/freedom.

Jn 8:36 "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

Look at 4 verses- admonish us to reflect our born-again nature- rather than our sinful nature.

Before Christ- slaves to our old carnal nature.

In Christ- free- to reflect our born-again nature.

However, in Christ- God's nature places demands and constraints on how we live our lives.

It is in the context of these demands/constraints that we find true freedom.

We will be looking at 1 Pet 1:13-16, but first look at some verses leading up to those verses ...

1 Peter 1:1–3 (NASB95)

¹Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen

²according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ ...

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Pet 1.1 ... we are a- **chosen-** people

1 Pet 1.2 ... we are chosen-**to obey Jesus Christ**

1 Pet 1.3 ... we are- **born again to a living hope**

1 Peter 1:13–16 (NASB95)

¹³Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

¹⁴As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance,

¹⁵but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;

¹⁶because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

1. Prepare you minds for action ...

1 Pet 1:13 (NASB) Therefore, prepare your minds for action ...

1 Pet 1:13 (AMP) ...brace up your minds

1 Pet 1:13 (MSG) ...put your mind in gear

(many today have put their mind in neutral and just rev their engines and make a lot of noise)

1 Pet 1:13 (NKJV) ... gird up the loins of your mind

Refers to- ancient practice- men tucking long robes into their belt to serve/to move quickly.

Girded their robes so nothing would impede them
We need to gird our minds so that no thought or imagination impedes us from following Christ.

The mind is that place where we determine the truth/morality of everything we face in life.

We must discipline- thoughts/imagination to bring them into alignment with God’s thoughts/ways.

Isaiah 55:9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.

If His thoughts-higher than our thoughts- we must find- what His thoughts are about everything.

Centering our thoughts on Christ and His soon return, will affect how we live our lives.

If you think Christ is going to return in a week or a month it will change the way you live.

A Christian who is looking to Christ and His return has a greater motivation for present obedience than a Christian who ignores Christ and His soon return.

Contrast the lives of Abraham and Lot (Gen 12-13, Heb 11:8-16)

Abraham/Lot had to divide the land between them- Abraham let Lot chose- land he wanted. Lot chose the land around Sodom/Gomorrah. Lot had tasted of the pleasures of the world and moved his family to Sodom.

Abraham had his eyes on the eternal land and had no interest in the world's real estate.

The Bible says Lot's soul was tormented by what he saw in Sodom- but- unwilling to let go of it.

God destroyed Sodom for their unholy behavior.

God did rescue Lot- but because his mind- not

centered-Lord-brought judgment on-household

His wife looked back and became a pillar of salt.

Result of focusing- minds on Christ/His return-the grace/empowerment of God to live victoriously.

Titus 2:11-13 (NASB95)

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

¹²instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly,

righteously and godly in the present age,

¹³looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

2. Keep sober in spirit ...

1 Pet 1:13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit ...

1 Pet 1:13 (NLT) ... exercise self-control

1 Per 1:13 (AMP)... be (... morally alert)

Sober- free from the influence of intoxicants

To be free from anything that will cloud our spiritual discernment/understanding of life.

It speaks of spiritual self-restraint.

It is to be free from every form of mental and spiritual “drunkenness” or excess.

Excess is that which crowds out good in our lives.

Excess- TV, movies, computer games, sports, social media, anything- monopolizes our lives.

Rather than being controlled by outside circumstances, believers should be directed from within by the Holy Spirit.

The fact that Christ is coming should sober us up.

1 Pet 4:7 The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.

I want sound judgment/sober spirit so I can be free from excesses that monopolize my life.

Why? so I can pray affectively.

3. Fix your hope ...

1 Pet 1:13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Pet 1:13 (NKJV) ... rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

1 Pet 1:13 (AMP) ... set your hope wholly and unchangeably on the grace (divine favor) that is coming to you when Jesus Christ (the Messiah) is revealed.

Set/fix/rest your hope on our revelation of Christ.

Do we have hope- if so what is our hope set on?

If we do not live w/hope then we are not allowing the nature of the new man to govern our lives.

Hope/lack of hope- defines ...

>who we are as a person

>how we will live our lives

Any area of our life in which there is no hope is under the influence of a lie. Bill Johnson

Wherever unbelief/fear exist- hope diminishes.

Declare: I am replacing lies that lead to hopelessness w/truth that creates hope.

Memorize ...

Rom 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are to live with the expectation/hope of seeing Jesus Christ in every area of our lives.

i.e. an engaged couple makes all their plans in the light of their future wedding.

Our plans should be focused on our future wedding with Christ and His soon return.

It is our future hope that motivates and directs our present thoughts/actions.

The reality of Jesus resurrection/hope of our resurrection will determine how we live today.

4. Do not be conformed to former lusts ...

1 Pet 1:14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance,

Do not be conformed ...

The warning here is about conforming ourselves outwardly to that which changes and has no permanency, and therefore is an illusion.

Before Christ we lived free of any godly demands and constraints- we were disobedient children.

Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

We are not to take on the form of this culture.

What are we conforming our lives to?

What things in our lives distract us from our devotion to God?

(Are we) loving more than God what ought to be loved less than God. John Piper

Loving too much what we ought to love less.

Do not allow ...

Mk 4:19 but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

It is not enough to just turn away from evil desires, but we must also pursue God.

Do not deceive yourself with obedience of belief, mistaking it for obedience of practice.

Many Christians believe what is right but are unwilling put that belief into action.

5. Be holy yourselves in all your behavior ...

1 Peter 1:15–16 (NASB95)

**¹⁵but like the Holy One who called you,
be holy yourselves also in all your
behavior;**

**¹⁶because it is written, “You shall be
holy, for I am holy.”**

Holy- is to separate ourselves from that which is
ungodly so we can devote ourselves to God.

**God’s holiness places divine demands
and constraints upon our conduct.**

It is within these constraints that we find freedom.

**2 Pet 3:11 ... what sort of people ought
you to be in holy conduct and godliness,**

Our nature determines our appetites and actions.
A dog and a cat behave differently because they
have different natures.

We have a nature born from above, born of God.
It is that nature that we need to reflect.

Conclusion

**Today’s complacency is tomorrows
captivity. Samuel Rodriguez**

If we- complacent- pursuing truth in some area of
our life it will become tomorrow’s area-captivity

Are we willing ...

2 Cor 10:5 ... **taking every thought
captive to the obedience of Christ,**

Whatever is outside of God’s heart for us that we
ignore/complacent about- will take us captive.

1 Pet 1:17 ... **conduct yourselves in fear
during the time of your stay on earth;**

We are called to leave Sodom and not look back-
but to press forward into Christ/holy living.

We need to ...

Prepare your minds for action

Keep sober in spirit

Fix your hope (revelation of God)

Do not be conformed to your former lusts

Be holy in all your behavior