

**SERIES: "CHOSEN AND EXILED"- -5/12/24 (#4)  
PASTOR LEE**

Celebrating  
God's Grace  
&  
Gift of  
Salvation

- Pastor Lee reiterates the two-part core of last week's sermon on 1 Peter 10-12.....First, **SALVATION**: Jesus' incredible gift...we were completely and devastatingly separated from God....Christ dies on the Cross and offers redemption. With faith and trust in Him, we have **SALVATION**. Second, the prophets pondered this notion of the Messiah and, through His Spirit, recognized and prophesied about this promise of grace.
- Many people (38) were baptized last week...declaring their faith "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God"....their free, genuine and outward expression of their faith!
- Peter is writing this book in AD 64...around - just before, during or after- the start of Nero's persecution (burns down the City of Rome and blames on the Christians). From that point, outward professions of Christian faith were extremely dangerous.

Be Prepared-  
Keep Your  
Eyes on The  
Prize!

*1 Peter 1: 13-16 - Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be bought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ (14) As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, (15) but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, (16) since it is written, "You shall be holy as I am holy."*

- Re: V 13, "preparing your minds for action...." - -Peter is saying: this salvation is going to be amazing but it won't come without struggle, so be ready- - and be sober-minded (serious). "Setting your hope on the grace...."; in other words, keep your eyes on the prize: **SALVATION**. Pastor stresses that, today, we need to do the same, counter-culturally and accepting whatever the risk, in living out our faith in whatever darkness.....doing so to bring glory to God (our ultimate purpose). So, again, prepare your minds for all this... stay grounded in Jesus!

Looking  
Forward From  
Re-Birth

- All this envelopes "obedience" to your 'now' 'faith-in Christ' focus....not reverting back (V 14) to earlier principles/behavior/reactions in your 'pre-Jesus' life. Using analogy of obeying your Mom, 'obedience' is not for sake of itself: it produces positive results (eg. safety, security, positioning for success). How much unfathomably more to be obedient to Jesus!
- You can recognize 'schematics'....that is, 'pattern of life'....those that are Godly and those that are not. There's, indeed, a stark, clear choice....don't go backward!

Choose life!  
(Faith/Obedience)

*Deut 30: 19 - I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live.*

And Be  
Holy!!!

- Therefore, chose life (faith/obedience)..... or death (self, sin, etc.) Which schematic will you chose?
- V 15-16: "You should be holy as I am Holy". The term, "holy", often misused and abused in the vernacular, refers to the sacredness and "set-apartness" which penultimately starts with the perfect Holiness/Presence of God. Yet, if you are a child of God and whereby Jesus has atoned for your sins, He has made you holy too....holy by the power/love/sacrifice of Jesus! You are, indeed, 'set apart' for what Jesus did for you....You are NOT the same anymore....a new heart, reflecting new behavior (obedience!), new thoughts, etc. Eight

How?

Organize  
Life  
Around  
God ----

---- Not  
This World!

times in the Bible, God says: "Be Holy" (because He is Holy and the standard of 'Holiness').

- Again, the choice.....chose to be separate from God or separate WITH God. There is a notion called "The examined life: "IS MY LIFE AND THE WAY I'M LIVING IT FOLLOWING A HOLY LIFE?....a life 'set apart' for God?"
- What's holiness look like? .....some would perceive awkward, weird, etc. Others say: "I don't want to be so heavenly-minded that I'm no earthly good" .....which is a false choice and a lie. Another notion: holiness is unattainable (unending rules). Or, another notion: " 'holiness' is just unimaginable for a human being." Together, these distortions can be summed up as: UNIMAGINABLE- -UNDESIRABLE- -UNOBTAINABLE.
- **IN TRUTH: GOD SEES YOU AS HOLY BECAUSE OF JESUS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!** Believers are holy....their whole focus, their life pattern, their heart is all new in Jesus.....set apart from others.
- A related quote by Dallas Willard concerning a life organized around God: "THE OVERALL IDEAL OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE IS ONE WHERE ALL THE ESSENTIAL PARTS OF THE HUMAN SELF ARE EFFECTIVELY ORGANIZED AROUND GOD AS THEY ARE RESTORED AND SUSTAINED BY HIM.

ROMANS 12: 1-2 - *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (2) Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

-Paraphrased by 'The Message Bible': "So here's what I want you to do. God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going -to-work, and walking around life —and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for Him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what He wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you."

Rise Up In  
His Holiness!

- APPLICATION: WHAT WOULD THAT LOOK LIKE IN MY OWN LIFE?! Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance!
- 1. Giving of a tithe and offering (1st 10%...its God's....its holy....set apart....see Lev 27:30; Luke 11:42)
- 2. Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it set apart (Exodus 20:8; Romans 4: 5-7)
- 3. Praise Him because His Name is Holy. None holy like our God. (Psalm 105; Exodus 27;1 Samuel 2: 2-3)
- Peter marvels at our salvation ....then notes the challenges and temptations we'll face....don't 'lay low' in our darker culture....rise up....in His Holiness...with God. He is our standard.....pursue holiness!

**CHOOSE TO PURSUE HOLINESS!**