



BETTER

PART 3

EVERY
Member | Event | Time
NEW MERCIES CHRISTIAN CHURCH | JOHN 4: 28-30

1 Peter 1:13-16 NKJV

13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;

15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,

16 because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

1. The Revelation Of Jesus Christ - is another expression for the *“living hope”* and *“the appearing of Jesus Christ.”*

2. Gird Up The Loins Of Your Mind - simply means, *“Pull your thoughts together! Have a disciplined mind!”*

3. Sober Mind - The word means *“to be calm, steady, controlled; to weigh matters.”*

4 Ignorance Leads To Indulgence

- The cause of all this is *ignorance* that leads to *indulgence*.
- Unsaved people lack spiritual intelligence, and this causes them to give themselves to all kinds of fleshly and worldly indulgences.

4 Ignorance Leads To Indulgence

1 Corinthians 6:5–11 (NKJV)

5 I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren?

6 But brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers!

7 Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated?

4 Ignorance Leads To Indulgence

8 No, you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and you do these things to your brethren!

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

4 Ignorance Leads To Indulgence

10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

4 Ignorance Leads To Indulgence

Acts 17:30 (NKJV)

Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

Ephesians 4:17–19 (NKJV)

17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,

18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

Nature Determines Appetites And Actions

- Since we were born with a fallen nature, it was natural for us to live sinful lives.
- Nature determines appetites and actions.
 - We are what we eat.
 - You attract what you are!

Nature Determines Appetites And Actions

Proverbs 23:7 (NKJV)

For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. “Eat and drink!” he says to you, But his heart is not with you.

Psalms 119:15–16 (NKJV)

15 I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways.

16 I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.

Nature Determines Appetites And Actions

- We would still be in that sad sinful plight were it not for the grace of God.

2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

Nature Determines Appetites And Actions

- He called us! One day, Jesus called to Peter and his friends and said, “Come, follow Me ... and I will make you fishers of men” *(Mark 1:17 NIV)*.
- They responded by faith to His call, and this completely changed their lives and purpose.

Perhaps This Explains Why Peter Used The Word “Called” So Often In This Letter

- We are called to be holy *(1 Peter 1:15)*.
- We are called “*out of darkness into His marvelous light*” *(1 Peter 2:9)*.
- We are called to suffer and follow Christ’s example of meekness *(1 Peter 2:21)*.
- This is a holy calling that the unsaved will not understand your pursuit to live better!

Perhaps This Explains Why Peter Used The Word “Called” So Often In This Letter

- In the midst of persecution, we are called *“to inherit a blessing”* (1 Peter 3:9).
- Best of all, we are called to *“His eternal glory”* (1 Peter 5:10).
- God called us before we called on Him for salvation. It is all wholly of grace.

God's Gracious Election Of Sinners To Become Saints Always Involves Responsibility, And Not Just Privilege.

- He has chosen us in Christ *“that we should be holy and without blame before Him”* (Eph. 1:4).
- God has called us to Himself, and He is holy; therefore, we should be holy.

God's Holiness Is An Essential Part Of His Nature

- God's holiness is an essential part of His nature.
- ***“God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all”*** (1 John 1:5).
- Any holiness that we have in character and conduct must be derived from Him.
- Basically, to be *sanctified means to be “set apart for God's exclusive use and pleasure.”*

God's Holiness Is An Essential Part Of His Nature

- It involves separation from that which is unclean and complete devotion to God (2 Cor. 6:14–7:1).
- We are to be holy *“in all manner of conversation [behavior],”* so that everything we do reflects the holiness of God.

God's Holiness Is An Essential Part Of His Nature

- To a dedicated believer, there is no such thing as “*secular*” and “*sacred*.”
- All of life is holy as we live to glorify God. Even such ordinary activities as eating and drinking can be done to the glory of God *(1 Cor. 10:31)*.
- If something cannot be done to the glory of God, then we can be sure it must be out of the will of God.

5

“It Is Written!”

1 Peter 1:16 (NKJV)

because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

- **“It is written!”** is a statement that carries great authority for the believer.
- Our Lord used the Word of God to defeat Satan, and so may we *(Matt. 4:1–11; see Eph. 6:17)*.

5

“It Is Written!”

- Our Lord used the Word of God to defeat Satan, and so may we *(Matt. 4:1–11)*.

Ephesians 6:17 (NKJV)

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

Psalms 119:11 (NKJV)

Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

- The Word of God is not only a sword for battle:
- It is also a light to guide us in this dark world.

Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)

Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path.

2 Peter 1:19 (NKJV)

and so we have the prophetic word confirmed,
which you do well to heed as a light that shines in
a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning
star rises in your hearts;

- It is food that strengthens us.

Matthew 4:4 (NKJV)

But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ ”

1 Peter 2:2 (NKJV)

as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,

- It is water that washes us (*Eph. 5:25–27*).

Ephesians 5:25–27 (NKJV)

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

- The Word of God has a sanctifying ministry in the lives of dedicated believers *(John 17:17)*.

John 17:17 (NKJV)

17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

- Those who delight in God's Word, meditate on it, and seek to obey it will experience God's direction and blessing in their lives (*Ps. 1:1–3*).
- The Word reveals God's mind, so we should *learn it*; God's heart, so we should *love it*; God's will, so we should *live it*.
- Our whole being—mind, will, and heart—should be controlled by the Word of God.

This is how we become better!

- Peter quoted from the Book of Leviticus, *“Ye shall be holy; for I am holy”* (Lev. 11:44).
- Does this mean that the Old Testament Law is authoritative today for New Testament Christians?
- Keep in mind that the early Christians did not even have the New Testament.

- The only Word of God they possessed was the Old Testament, and God used that Word to direct and nurture them.
- Believers today are not under the ceremonial laws given to Israel; however, even in these laws we see moral and spiritual principles revealed.

- Nine of the Ten Commandments are repeated in the Epistles, so we must obey them.
- (The Sabbath commandment was given especially to Israel and does not apply to us today. *See Rom. 14:1–9*)
- As we read and study the Old Testament, we will learn much about God's character and working, and we will see truths pictured in types and symbols.

- **The first step toward being better in this filthy world is to ask, “*What does the Bible say?*”**
- In the Scriptures, we will find precepts, principles, promises, and persons to guide us in today’s decisions.
- If we are really willing to obey God, He will show us His truth (*John 7:17*).
- While God’s methods of working may change from age to age, His character remains the same and His spiritual principles **never vary**.

- We do not study the Bible just to get to know the Bible. We study the Bible that we might get to know God better.
- Too many earnest Christians are content with outlines and explanations, and do not really get to know God.
- It is good to know the Word of God, but this should help us better know the God of the Word, and we become better!