



BETTER

PART 2

Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 395-397.



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.”

- Peter emphasized *walking in hope rather than doubt*, this is a call to be better.
- *Now* his emphasis is walking in holiness because our former conduct is not conducive to us becoming better.
- *The two go together, for:*

1 John 3:3 (NKJV)

And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

- The root meaning of the word translated *holy* is “*different.*”
- A *holy person* is not an **odd** person, but a **different** person.
- He is a person who is not better than anyone else, but his spiritual life is better because his life has a quality about it that is different.

Numbers 14:22–24 (NKJV)

22 because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice, 23 they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it.

24 But My servant Caleb, because he has a **different spirit in him** and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.

A Better Life Should Not Be Strange To Other Believers

- His present “lifestyle” is not only different from his past way of life, but it is different from the “lifestyles” of the unbelievers around him.
- A Christian’s life of holiness appears strange to the lost, but it is not strange to other believers.

A Better Life Should Not Be Strange To Other Believers

1 Peter 4:4 (NKJV)

In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.

However, It Is Not Easy To Live In This World And Maintain A Holy Walk, And Pursue A Better Life.

Galatians 5:17–18 (NKJV)

17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

- We are in for a battle in order to be **BETTER!**

- The anti-God atmosphere around us that the Bible calls “the world” is always pressing against us, trying to force us to conform.
- Peter presented to his readers five spiritual incentives to encourage us to maintain a different and Better lifestyle, a holy walk in a polluted world.

1 Peter 1:13 (NKJV)

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;

1 The Revelation Of Jesus Christ

- “The revelation of Jesus Christ” is another expression for the “living hope” and “the appearing of Jesus Christ.”
- Christians live in the future tense; their present actions and decisions are governed by this future hope, so Christians today live with the expectation of seeing Jesus Christ. This is a better life.

1

The Revelation Of Jesus Christ

Psalm 37:37 (NKJV)

Mark the blameless man, and observe the upright; For the future of that man is peace.

2

Gird Up The Loins Of Your Mind

- “Gird up the loins of your mind” simply means, “Pull your thoughts together! Have a disciplined mind!”
- The image is that of a robed man, tucking his skirts under the belt, so he can be free to run.
- When you center your thoughts on the return of Christ, and live accordingly, you escape the many worldly things that would encumber your mind and hinder your spiritual progress.

Outlook Determines Outcome; Attitude Determines Action

- Outlook determines outcome; attitude determines action.
- A Christian who is looking for the glory of God has a greater motivation for a better life, and present obedience than a Christian who ignores the Lord's return.
- The contrast is illustrated in the lives of Abraham and Lot (*Gen. 12–13; Heb. 11:8–16*).

- Abraham had his eyes of faith on that heavenly city, so he had no interest in the world's real estate.
- But Lot, who had tasted the pleasures of the world in Egypt, gradually moved toward Sodom.
- Abraham brought blessing to his home, but Lot brought judgment.
- Outlook determined outcome.

3

Sober Mind

- Not only should we have a disciplined mind, but we should also have a ***sober mind***.
- *The word means “to be calm, steady, controlled; to weigh matters.”*
- Unfortunately some people get “*carried away*” with prophetic studies and lose their spiritual balance.

- The fact that Christ is coming should encourage us to be calm and collected.

1 Peter 4:7 (NKJV)

But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

- The fact that Satan is on the prowl is another reason to be sober-minded.

1 Peter 5:8 (NKJV)

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

- Anyone whose mind becomes undisciplined, and whose life **“falls apart”** because of prophetic studies, is giving evidence that he does not really understand Bible prophecy.
- We should also have an *optimistic mind*. **“Hope to the end”** means **“set your hope fully.”** Have a hopeful outlook!
- **“When the outlook is gloomy, try the up look!”**
Good advice, indeed! It has to be dark for the stars to appear.

Spiritual Mind-Set

- The result of this spiritual mind-set is that a believer experiences the grace of God in his life.
- To be sure, we will experience grace when we see Jesus Christ; but we can also experience grace today as we look for Him to return.

Spiritual Mind-Set

- We have been saved by grace and we depend moment by moment on God's grace (*1 Peter 1:10*).
- Looking for Christ to return strengthens our faith and hope in difficult days, and this imparts to us more of the grace of God.

1 Peter 1:14–15 (NKJV)

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,

Children Inherit The Nature Of Their Parents

- The argument here is logical and simple. Children inherit the nature of their parents.
- God is holy; therefore, as His children, we should live holy lives.
- We are “**partakers of the divine nature**” (2 *Peter 1:4*) and ought to reveal that nature in godly living.

Children Inherit The Nature Of Their Parents

2 Peter 1:4 (NKJV)

by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

- Peter reminded his readers of what they were before they trusted Christ.
- They had been ***children of disobedience*** (*Eph. 2:1–3*), but now they were to be obedient children.
- True salvation always results in obedience (*Rom. 1:5; 1 Peter 1:2*).

- They had also been imitators of the world, ***“fashioning themselves”*** after the standards and pleasures of the world.
- Romans 12:2 translates this same word as ***“conformed to this world.”***
- Unsaved people tell us that they want to be ***“free and different”***; yet they all imitate one another!

BE BETTER!

BETTER PART 2

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