



Chapter 1

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

In the next four verses, Peter gives five exhortations to his readers:

1. *prepare your minds for action*- literally, “gird up the loins of your mind.” (anazōsamenoī- *ana* (up) + *zonnumi* (bind/gird). This was an act of preparing for battle (taking your robe and tucking it into your belt). Our minds should be clear and ready to serve the Lord in mental battle. This reminds us of Exodus 12- Passover.

How to Gird Up Your Loins

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1. The tunic wouldn't allow you to do heavy labor or fight in battle, necessitating the “girding” of one's loins.



2. First, hoist the tunic up so that all the fabric is above your knees. This will give you mobility.



3. Gather all the extra material in front of you, so that the back of the tunic is snug against your backside.



4. Once the excess fabric is gathered in front, pull it underneath and between your legs to your rear. This feels much like a diaper.



5. Gather half of the material in each hand, bringing it back around to the front.



6. Finally, tie your two handfuls of material together, and you're all set for both battle and some hard labor. Go forth, be ye men, and gird up your loins!

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

2. *keep sober in spirit*- This is the first of three times Peter tells believers to be “sober” (1:13; 4:7; 5:8) as we wait for the return of Christ.

3. *set your hope completely on the grace*- Hope is a prominent topic of his letter. Peter encourages believers to remember that their hope is in grace (salvation) that is a living inheritance. This is the fourth mention of Jesus’ return (5, 7, 9, 13).

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

4. *do not be conformed to the former lusts*- This reminds of the admonition of Paul in Romans 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.

Peter warns believers as adopted children to be obedient to God and to not return to their old ways before salvation.

Chapter 1

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

5. *be like the Holy One-* Holy (*hagion*) means set apart, sacred. God has made us holy (justified) because of Christ's atoning work on the cross. Now Peter is calling us to make choices based on who we really are. We should now act like our Father.

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Verse 16- *because it is written: "You shall be holy, for I am holy."*

be holy- This is not a new idea. It is a quotation of Leviticus 11:44:

*"For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and **be holy, because I am holy.**"*

The Old and New Testaments speak about the holiness of God more than any of His other attributes.

Chapter 1

Verse 17- *If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth;*

The theme of the paragraph so far appears in the statement to live their lives "in reverent fear." Because of the inheritance and salvation believers anticipate (vv. 1–12), they should set their hope completely on Christ's coming (v. 13), devote themselves to holiness (v. 15), and live in fear (v. 17).

If you address- This could be rightly translated "Since you address..."

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Verse 17- *If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth;*

as Father- Since He is a Father to believers (not to all mankind), He is also a Judge.

according to each one's work- God is an impartial Judge (*aprosōpolēmtōs*- without looking at our face)

conduct yourselves in fear- The result of knowing that God is our Father and Judge is to conduct ourselves in reverence to Him because His eye is continually on us.

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Verse 18- *knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,*

Peter tells his readers how they were not redeemed before telling them how they were.

silver or gold- Silver tarnishes, and gold is more durable (idols).

futile way of life- emptiness (*mataias*) Much like their life before being saved.

inherited from your forefathers,- This is the first indication that some of Peter's audience are Gentiles.

Chapter 1

Verse 19- *but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.*

precious blood,- Not silver or gold (money), but blood.

Redemption requires the payment of a price. In this case, not money but blood being poured out.

lamb unblemished and spotless- In the Old Testament sacrificial system, blood was necessary for atonement, often from a spotless lamb. Jesus was the ultimate expression of a perfect Lamb who was slain as a sacrifice for our sins.

Next week...

**Finish Chapter 1 and
Begin Chapter 2**

