

How to Live a Holy Life in a Land that is Not Your Own

Strangers and Aliens

1 Peter 1:13-21

January 12, 2020

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

Context:

Peter's audience was made up of people like you and me, who had been dispersed around the known world. Persecution was ramping up. They were beginning to feel the pressure of believing in Jesus within a culture that didn't. But God called them to represent him well. They were to be holy.

Just like these early believers, we can learn to thrive in a similar culture. We can be at peace, lead others to Christ, and glorify God. The key is to become more like Jesus. It is to be holy. Today we'll learn how to live a holy life in a land that is not our own.

Peter will tell us that this is possible when we live with hope that comes from a focused mind that is free from the world's distractions. We can also live in holiness when we put our ultimate hope in the future coming of Jesus and rest in the power of our salvation, which is made possible by the blood of Christ.

Key Scripture -

1 Peter 1:13-21:

¹³Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." ¹⁷And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers,

not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

- 1. What types of behaviors come to mind when you think of a holy life? What behaviors would be the antithesis of holiness? Would you describe your life as holy? Why or why not?**

- 2. Much of Peter's argument regarding how to thrive in a difficult environment is based on finding hope. Hope leads to holiness. How does the knowledge that Jesus is coming again, affect the way you live and the hope that you have?**

- 3. Living for a purpose can give you joy, regardless of your circumstances. What is your life's purpose? Are you living it out or spinning your wheels? What would it take to get traction? Pray and ask God to help you.**

NEXT WEEK'S TOPIC

1 Peter 1:22-2:3 - Learning how to love each other as we navigate as *Strangers and Aliens*



