

Renewing Our Mind - Part 2

A PREPARED MINDSET 1Peter 1:13-25

STIMULATE

** Last week we learned that Peter's problem was that he had set his mind on man's interest rather than on God's. What was the three step plan, which Jesus gave us, to help us develop "A Godly Mindset"?

- 1) Deny yourself - Do not look out for your own interest!
- 2) Take up your cross - Be willing to suffer or die if necessary, for Christ's sake!
- 3) Follow Jesus as Lord - Be obedient to His Word!

** Are you seriously trying to apply what the Holy Spirit is teaching you? Are you remembering throughout the week the rich truths that God teaches us? Are you applying those truths to the trials of each day so that you avoid the error that Peter made when he rebuked Jesus saying, "This shall never happen to You"?

Our life must be in complete submission to the authority of God's precious Word. We must not let our emotions (or sinful flesh) mandate our actions, but rather we need to always have a Christ honoring response, which is why Paul told the Corinthians, "Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God!" (1Corinthians 10:31)

MOTIVATE

** As we began the "**Renewing Our Mind**" series, we listed four questions that were designed to help us learn the importance of a Christian renewing his or her mind. Today, we are going to answer the second of those four questions, "How urgent is the need?"

If I am to not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of my mind, how urgent is the need for that transformation? The apostle Peter addresses this issue in his first epistle. Would you join me in 1Peter 1:13-25 as we see Peter describe "A Prepared Mindset".

Read Text (V. 13-16) (V. 17-21) (V.22-25)

Opening Prayer

A Prepared Mindset

INVESTIGATE

V.13 ** Up to this point in his letter, Peter has been doing a masterful job of establishing the grandeur of our salvation. For example:

V. 3 - God "...has caused us to be born-again..."

V. 4 - Our inheritance is "...reserved in heaven"

V. 5 - We are "...protected by the power of God"

V. 8 - Our faith produces a love for Jesus Christ which makes us "greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory..."

V. 9 - Our faith produces "the salvation" of our souls.

V. 10-12 - Our salvation is of such wonder that even the prophets and angels were amazed!

**"Therefore", what must be our response today to the glory and splendor of such a wonderful salvation?

Peter says, "Therefore, gird you minds for action"

** What is it about that command that shows us the urgency of the need?

Peter literally said, "gird up the loins of your mind for action". He is drawing a word picture of someone who would take the loose garment of the day and pull it up, tucking it into the belt, in preparation for a vigorous activity or even battle.

As we live our daily Christian life, with a renewed mind, it is not going to simply be a case of "Let go and let God". We are going to be actively involved in the process, daily! The need is NOW!

** Today we are going to learn seven elements of "girding up the loins of our mind" or developing "A Prepared Mindset". Peter gives us the first one right away, do you see it?

1. "...keep sober in spirit..."

** Is Peter telling us to not get drunk?

No! The present tense of this command calls for a continuing activity that supports a renewed mind. The term for "be sober" [nephontes] is used figuratively to illustrate a condition of sobriety. Quoting two commentators, D. Hiebert/Alan Stibbs, "It denotes a condition free from every form of mental and spiritual loss of self-control; it is an attitude of self-discipline that avoids the extremes of the 'reckless irresponsibility of self indulgence on the one hand, and of religious ecstasy on the other.'"

** Not only are Christians to be disciplined in their thinking, but as a second element of preparing our minds, what are we to fix our hope upon?

2. "the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." Our thinking process is not driven by the here and now, but rather by what we know our Lord is bringing for us in His time! cf. Revelation 22:12

V.14 ** This forward thinking pattern for the Christian begins to snowball and we learn the impact of a prepared mind in the very next verse. What does Peter call those with a "Prepared Mind"?

"...obedient children..."

** Peter then gives us the third element of preparing our minds. What is it?

3. "do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance..."

We must be so prepared in our thinking, that we can recognize the former lustful patterns of our unsaved lifestyle and then avoid them with the self-discipline made possible only through our relationship to Jesus Christ! cf. 1Peter 2:11

** Did you notice the phrase used for our condition prior to knowing Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior?

"...in your ignorance..." cf. 1Timothy 1:13

V.15 ** What is the fourth mind preparing element?

4. "like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior..."

It is not enough to stop the sinful, lustful pattern of our past life, but we must adorn the Holiness which belongs to God, Himself. cf. Titus 2:9-10

V.16 ** What reason does Peter give for this effort?

"Because" God has recorded His standard in Scripture, "You shall be holy, for I am holy".
cf. Leviticus 11:44-45, 19:2, 20:7, Ephesians 1:4

V.17 ** So far we have learned four elements of preparing our minds for action, they are:

- 1) **A spiritually disciplined thoughtlife**
- 2) **Fixing our hope on eternity in Christ**
- 3) **Avoiding conforming to our old lifestyle**
- 4) **Be holy, for our God is holy**

Peter now introduces the fifth element, can you put it into your own words?

5. Because we have a relationship to the One who judges all men, we must **prepare our minds with a reverence for God**, which must last as long as we can draw a breath of air.

" . . . conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay upon earth." cf. Philippians 2:12-13

V.18-21

** In the next four verses, Peter establishes the reason for our reverence. Warning, don't let the familiarity of this text lull you into a sense of apathy. What we are about to see should shake us out of any resistance that we might have to "**Renewing Our Minds**".

As you look over these four verses, let's find one reason for reverencing our God in each verse.

V. 18 - We could not be redeemed with perishable stuff from our "futile way of life".

V. 19 - We were redeemed by the blood of Christ.

V. 20 - The Incarnation! ...for our sake!

V. 21 - Our faith and hope are in God!

V.22 ** Having established the reverence for God in our prepared mind, what is the sixth element of preparing our minds for action?

6. "obedience to the Truth" A prepared mind is one that knows the truth of God's precious Word and is committed to following that truth daily. That is why God chose us in the first place. cf. 1Peter 1:2

** Peter says that our obedience to the Truth is observable. Who ought to be able to see the difference in us who have been redeemed?

Our "brethren", whom we are to love. Peter uses fervently from [ektenos], which means to stretch. Our prepared minds should stretch our love muscle!

V.23 ** In the heart of every true believer is the seed that causes us to be "obedient to the Truth". What is it?

"...the living and abiding word of God." All see - Hebrews 4:12-13

** Now back in 1Peter 1:23, what two things does Peter say about the longevity of God's word?

It is the "imperishable" seed and "abiding" word!

V.24 ** That introduces the 7th and final element of a mind which has been prepared for action. How firm is our foundation, if it is the Word of God?

Peter draws from the prophet Isaiah in chapter 40, verses 6-8, and comes to the conclusion that the Word of God "abides forever". Biblically speaking, **7. "A Prepared Mindset" is one that is girded for action based upon the foundation of God's unchangeable Word.**

** To what does Peter compare our flesh (or life)?

To the grass of the field. It is green, vibrant, flourishing with life and beauty. It even has its own glory in "the flower of grass".

** What happens to it and us when trials come, if we are not founded upon the Word of God?

"The grass withers, and the flower falls off". Just a note: Isaiah 40:7 says that it is the breath of the Lord, Himself, which blows upon it and causes it to wither!

V.25 ** How does God's Word compare to our flesh or grass?

It abides forever!

** The good news is that verse 23 reminded us that we are indeed founded upon the imperishable, abiding Word of God, so how long will we abide?

Also, forever! cf. John 3:16, 36, 6:40, 11:25-26

** Peter concludes with a most important reminder to his readers, what is it?

This gospel truth, this imperishable Word, this living and abiding word of God, is in fact the word which was preached to you. They, and we who trust in Christ today, do so based upon the foundation of His glorious truth, the Word of God.

EXTRICATE

** Today we have learned that for a Christian to renew his mind he must be willing to develop "A Prepared Mindset". That is attainable as we gird our minds for action. Do you recall why we would do that, to what are we responding?

"The glory and splendor of such a wonderful salvation"!

** How urgent is the need to renew our minds?

It is immediate, every day we are to "gird up the loins of our mind for action".

DELINEATE

** What were the seven elements of preparing our minds for action?

- 1) **A spiritually disciplined thoughtlife**
- 2) **Fixing our hope on eternity in Christ**
- 3) **Avoiding conforming to our old lifestyle**
- 4) **Be holy, for our God is holy**
- 5) **Develop a reverence for God**
- 6) **Living in "obedience to the Truth"**
- 7) **Life based upon the foundation of God's Word**

EVALUATE

** As our study for today began, I asked you a penetrating question designed to cause you to stop and think about your walk with the Lord. It bears repeating, "Are you remembering throughout the week the rich truths that God teaches us?"

Do you care enough about your walk with the Lord to review the seven elements of a prepared mind as you walk with Him this next week?

ACTIVATE

** May our Lord be pleased with our desire to develop "**A Prepared Mindset**" by spending time this next week reviewing what we have learned together today.

Closing Prayer