

12095-A December 2, 2012
The Hope of Holiness
1 Peter 1:13-21 part 2

- I. **Luke 2:8-14. Jesus Christ changed the destiny of the universe.**
 - A. It was an announcement of good news, but the angels understood it better than the people
 1. I bring good news: gospel—good newsing you.
 2. But the shepherds and even Mary and Joseph didn't know how good the news was.
 3. They wouldn't know until the resurrection!
 - B. The good news was about what God is doing, not what man is doing
 1. God has entered the material realm and singlehandedly changed everything
 - C. It did not change their immediate circumstances, but did change their destiny
 1. *When we are aware of a new destiny, future, hope, it changes how we interpret our suffering.*
- II. **Circumstances are still very hard here. First Peter is written to Christians feeling alienated, traumatized.**
 - A. Peter reminds them of the gospel: Indicative-Imperative-Indicative.
- III. **The indicative of Salvation. 1:1-12**
 - A. God has changed your destiny, and the universe's destiny.
- IV. **The imperative of holiness: Therefore: *lean into this reality.* 1:13-17**
 - A. Resist the pressure from your former ignorant addictions. 14
 1. The worthless, empty unrealities of the old worldviews.
 2. The gospel is reality, God's kingdom is reality. The old way is not ultimately real in the future.
 - B. Respond to the pressure from your present knowledgeable desires. 15
 1. **Holiness** is the new nature for Christians. There is a life in you that pressures you relentlessly toward goodness; This is holiness that resembles God.
 2. His calling continues your whole life—He is always calling us forward.
 - C. **What does holiness mean?** (worse than nothing to most people in the west)
 1. Three aspects of God's holiness. (qadosh/hagios)
 - a) Infinite Transcendence: *different, separate* (Isa.55:8-9)
 - (1) God is not like us, but infinitely different.
 - (2) Though we are somewhat like him, in a created way and therefore we were created to have real knowledgeable fellowship with him.
 - b) Infinite Superiority: *Majestic* (Isa.6)
 - (1) There are orders of being in the universe, frogs, humans, angels
 - (2) *But God is infinitely above the highest created order*
 - c) Infinite Moral Purity: *Ultimate Love* (1 Jn.4:7-8)
 - (1) Can pure love kill us? Yes, if we are evil.
 - (2) Pure love by definition is also pure moral goodness, (If it were not *love* it would not be ultimately good, and if it were not *ultimately good* it would not be Love)
 - (3) *Which means that all evil must be eliminated for Love to flow freely.*

2. Four aspects of holiness among God's people. (saints = holy ones)
 - a) *Being chosen and set apart specifically for God.* (Rom.1:1-5)
 - (1) Primary meaning: To be fully set apart for his use.
 - (a) But it does not mean self-righteous, legalistic, or "religious".
 - b) *Being forgiven and declared righteous by faith in Christ.* (1 Cor.6:11)
 - (1) Holiness is a position, 1 Cor.6:11, you were washed, sanctified
 - (a) In order to be holy, you must be utterly forgiven and have a full account of righteousness.
 - (b) Double imputation: He takes our blame and we get his record. 2 Cor.5:21; Gal.3:13
 - (2) *Stop trying to forgive yourself. We cannot ever "forgive ourselves."*
 - (a) The Self cannot and will not forgive, because it is an idol. Only the Lord forgives and we must stop being our own judge and let him be the real judge. 1 Cor.4:1-5.
 - c) *Being transformed by the Spirit—especially in suffering.* (Jas.1:1-5)
 - (1) Holiness is also a progression. Rom.12:1-2
 - (a) Be transformed, passive imperative. Rom.12:1-2
 - (2) *Transformed into the character of Christ.* Gal.5:22-24
 - (a) God in human form, in real life.
 - d) *Being evaluated by a loving Father* **2 Cor.5:10**
 - (1) This is real and helpful to us. Why? When is it easiest to obey the speed limit? When there's a trooper following you! *It's an advantage to be accountable on some things.*
 - (2) So, living in this age *paying attention* is crucial. (Conduct yourselves with fear)

V. **The indicative of Redemption. 18-21**

- A. The blood of the Lamb cannot fail.
- B. The plan of the Father cannot fail.
- C. God cannot fail—and your faith is in him directly

VI. ***The Cross of Christ is the turning point of destiny. Come!***