

## MONDAY, MARCH 12

1 PETER 1:13-16

The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ brought salvation to all. With salvation, God gives hope, an imperishable inheritance, and protection. As God's people, we know salvation, we respond to salvation with love, and we discover indescribable joy. Inside of faith, God works to bring about the salvation of our souls. All that we are, were, and will be become intertwined with God's will and truth. This incredible truth requires a response.

Peter gives a framework of response. The nature of God and his work through Christ will change us. As God's people, we eagerly prepare ourselves to receive and proclaim God's true nature. This is Peter's call to holiness.

Holiness is not about future glory. Holiness is about today. It is about God's continuing work in people who intentionally pursue him and his will. It is possible for Christians to get so caught up in heaven and the coming glory that they miss the glorious work God wants to do right now.

Peter's call to holiness connects how we think, what we do, and our hope for the future to obedience. There is such a thing as a Christ-filled life: a life in which our desires mirror the desires of Christ. A life without Christ is defined by ignorance of the truth, enslavement to desire, and the futility of conforming to a world without purpose. The Christ-filled life is a gift and a privilege. It is new life lived in a new way.

To be holy is to be different. To be a Christian is to accept the great privilege and responsibility of being God's hands and feet in a world apart from him. A Christian is not like everyone else. Our identity is rooted in the reality of our creation and salvation. We are God's people. Through us, others will see God, his grace, and his salvation.

Perhaps a reminder is needed. Holiness is not an oppressive list of rules and regulations that a follower of Jesus must adhere to in order to keep God happy. Holiness is a gift and an opportunity. We get to take on the very nature of God and proclaim who he is to all. What a beautiful picture of purpose and life! Maybe today is a good day to rethink how we approach obedience as God's people. The definition of holiness must be always rooted in the nature of God. Let us never settle for anything less.