

GIRD UP THE LOINS OF YOUR MIND

I. 1 Peter 1:13-25

A. On this first Sunday of 2015 we come together before the Lord for worship, fellowship, and Communion. (As *'fellows in the same ship' raising our songs to our ever faithful God!*) We also go to God's Word to hear His heart. (Let me encourage you to go to God's Word each day of this new year. God's truth supersedes man's opinions.) When you hear God's Word today may you hear His voice and not thunder!

B. 1 Peter 1:13-25 is a powerful Good Word for our brand new year...

1) V13 *"Therefore, 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."* (No matter what comes your way; no matter your lack or your obstacles or challenges--let your hope rest in God's grace, the unmerited favor of God which will be fully realized upon Christ's return.)

2) V14-16 *"As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." (cf. Lev. 19:2)* (Our God is a holy God--full of mercy and lovingkindness, righteousness and justice. The 'little g' gods of the pagan world were warlike, spiteful, bloodthirsty, and steeped in immorality. We're called to be like God our Father and Lord Jesus Christ.)

3) V17-21 is the Gospel: *"And 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, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you 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."*

4) V22-25 is the outcome of the Gospel: *"Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you."*

C. Let me see if I can summarize these verses in plain English, in frank American phraseology, without butchering the meaning. With apologies to Eugene Peterson, Peter is exhorting us as follows: "Get your head around the following and prepare yourselves for action. (*An unprepared mind will lead to inaction or regretful activity.*) Between your ears, take hold of hope, hope that is resting securely in God's grace which is His love and favor you haven't earned and don't deserve. While you may be familiar with the grace that has saved you and the grace that is transforming you, get your head around the fullness of grace that will be yours when Christ returns. If you truly believe God is your Father, obey Him accordingly. He is holy--His actions are virtuous, moral, pure, and altogether righteous and good. As His children, act like your Father, just like Jesus showed us how. Have a reverent sense of awe for our Father and realize that He sees everything you do and will one day reward you (or withhold rewards) based on your actions. Remember He's a good and trustworthy Father. While you temporarily occupy your present place here and now, it is indeed temporary. Act accordingly. Why is this so important for His children? You once were not His children. You once were held in slavery, you were once enslaved to the tyranny of sin. But He rescued you from that slavery by paying a ransom that you could not afford to pay, as the ransom price exceeded that of silver or gold. He paid your ransom by sending His One and Only Son, to shed His precious blood, the Lamb of God without an ounce of sin or rebellion in Him. This was His plan before the world began and yet He did this for you to make you His very own child. And while His Son was executed for you on a shameful cross, He was raised from the dead because the ransom was not only paid but accepted as payment-in-full. This is the Truth of the Gospel and you are called to obey this Truth and the indicator of your faith and obedience will be genuine and earnest love for one another. Love for one another is the true verification of new birth, of genuine faith and obedience, validating the sincerity of your confession, and the authentication of your adoption as God's sons and daughters. This all comes about via the living and active Word of God. Like grass and flowers and most things of nature, you're life span is short and you have no idea how much time you have. But this Word that brings everlasting life to you via the power of the Holy Spirit is truly Good News. This is the Good News you've now been Blessed to hear. So what will you do with it?"

II. Communion

A. The Bread & Cup, they represent in their simplicity, the reality of what was just read. V18-20 once again: *"...You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you..."*

B. Pray and Serve Communion...

C. 1 Peter 1:3-5 (NIV) is our Benediction: *"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into*

an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time."

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

1 Peter 1:13-25 (ESV)

13 Therefore, 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. **14** As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, **15** but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, **16** since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." **17** And 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, **18** knowing 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. **22** Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, **23** since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; **24** for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, **25** but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

1 Peter 1:3-5 (NIV)

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, **5** who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

Film Clips & Other Links

"For All You Have Done" - Rend Collective with Dan Mohler

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBEWSowU9rl>

"True and Better" - Dan Stevers (A Powerful Animation!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGFtqqBQkM>

"It's Our Time" - IgniterMedia

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hz1I3K4UQfI>

Girding Your Mind To Guard Your Hope - Sermon by John Piper

<http://www.desiringgod.org/sermons/girding-the-mind-to-guard-your-hope>

Manners & Customs: Gird Up the Loins of Your Mind - 1 Peter 1:3 KJV

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQ5bY7G41XY>

Precious Blood - Dr. R.C. Sproul (Full Sermon and Very Powerful!)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c_10Mh6eHXg

Louis Zamperini - "Captured By Grace" A Billy Graham Association Online Film

<http://billygraham.org/video/louis-zamperini-captured-by-grace/>

Bonus Stuff

Titus 3:3-7 (ESV)

3 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. **4** But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, **5** He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, **6** whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, **7** so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

1 Peter 3:18 (ESV)

18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit...

John 13:34-35 (ESV)

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. **35** By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

1 John 4:7-11 (ESV)

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. **8** Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. **9** In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. **10** In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. **11** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 Thessalonians 4:9-18 (NIV)

9 Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. **10** And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more...

Leviticus 19:1-2 (ESV)

1 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, **2** "Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

Isaiah 40:6-8 (ESV)

6 A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. **7** The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. **8** The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Theological Note on 1 Peter 1:20

"God chose Him as your ransom long before the world began, but He has now revealed Him to you in these last days." - 1 Peter 1:20 (NLT)

Christ's sacrifice for our sins was not an afterthought, not something God decided to do when the world spun out of control. This plan was set in motion by the all-knowing, eternal God long before the world was created. What a comfort it must have been for Jewish believers to know that Christ's coming and His work of salvation were planned by God long before the world began. This assured them that the law was not being scrapped because it didn't work but that both the law *and* the coming of Christ were part of God's eternal plan.

- Theological Note on 1 Peter 1:20, *Life Application Study Bible*, Tyndale, p. 2785.

For All That You Have Done

By Rend Collective

http://tabs.ultimate-guitar.com/r/rend_collective/for_all_that_you_have_done_crd.htm

Your grace will never be forgot,
Your Mercy all my life,
Will be my source forever song,
My story and my light.

From mountain top to valley low,
Through laughter and through tears;
Surely the goodness of my God
Will follow all the years.

Chorus

For all that You have done for us,
For every battle won,
We'll raise a song to bless Your heart
For all that you have done.

You know our failures and regrets
You always led us home,
Redemption's arm has raised us up
Our triumph in the storm. (Chorus)

(You're faithful through the ages!)

In unity we'll stand as one,
As family we'll go,
Shoulder to shoulder,
Hand in hand,
Into the great unknown. (Chorus)