

# **Studies in I Peter (14)**

## The Responsibility of Salvation

### Introduction

- A. Peter's emphasis, in the first part of this epistle, is on the meaning of God's grace as seen in the believer's salvation. This is why, as we have seen, he gave five evidences of the greatness of salvation.
- B. The apostle knew an understanding of this theme would not only comfort the persecuted readers, it would give them the key as to how to live the Christian life. God's grace is always the key.

### **I. The Grace of God in the Believer's Salvation, I Peter 1:3-2:10.**

- A. The description of salvation, Vs 3-5. (Lesson # 11)
- B. The joy of salvation, Vs 6-9. (Lesson # 12)
- C. The greatness of salvation, Vs 10-12. (Lesson # 13)
- D. The responsibility of salvation, Vs 13-2:3.

- 1. The responsibility of dedication, V13.

*Wherefore, gird up the loins of your mind* (prepare your mind for action), *be sober* (be self-controlled), and *hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ* (set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed).

- a. The Biblical basis for dedication -- "Wherefore."

By the use of this word we are taught that our dedication to God has a foundation. There are reasons why we should so respond.

- 1) Because of the greatness of God, Vs 2,3,4,5,7.

We are taught God's greatness through His wisdom and power which are revealed in the mighty acts of love such as election, redemption, preservation, providence, and sovereignty. We see by this that dedication is an act of worship. It must also be said that the Christian who has not surrendered to God to do His will does not understand Who God is.

- 2) Because of the goodness of God, Vs 1-12.

Every subject we have studied in this epistle is a testimony to divine goodness. Because of our sinfulness there is no way that we can work for or merit the gifts of God. In His loving-kindness God has made every provision for the repentant and believing sinner in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Every good, in your life and mine, is due to God's goodness.

b. The Biblical explanation of dedication -- "gird up . . . . "

1) The illustration: "Gird up the loins of your mind."

By use of this idiom, taken from the way the oriental would bind his robes into his belt as preparation for work, Peter points out some major truths regarding dedication. He tells us that we are "to make up our minds." The emphasis is placed on four important areas.

- a) Dedication is a personal act -- every believer must make this surrender to God for himself and assume the responsibility to live that way in spite of what happens and what others do.
- b) Dedication is a choice -- which extends to every area of life. In particular it has to do with priorities, goals, and pleasures of daily life.
- c) Dedication is an act of obedience -- as the only Biblical response we can make -- in the light of His grace and mercy. Any other option involves us in disobedience.
- d) Dedication is an expression of faith -- to obey God in daily trust for wisdom and enablement.

2) The content: ". . . your mind."

Dedication has to do with the mind because it is in this way that we know the Word of God. Our dedication is an honest practice of what we know to be true. Too often our daily life is built upon our emotions.

We must learn to "take charge" of our mind, will, emotions, and body. We must distinguish between truth and error and live accordingly. Many are victimized by their thought life.

c. The Biblical characteristic of dedication -- "be sober."

The word "sober" means "self-controlled." This is an reminder that the Holy Spirit teaches and works in the life of the believer who wants to walk with God (Galatians 5:23). The emphasis here is on choosing to live according to truth in spite of the pressures and temptations of life.

d. The Biblical content of dedication -- "hope . . . Jesus Christ."

The word "hope" in the Bible does not refer to that which is doubtful, but that which is certain - although yet future. This is why the coming of Jesus Christ is the "Blessed Hope" (Titus 2:13). By use of this word we are told to live now in harmony with, and expecting the grace that will be ours when the Lord Jesus returns. We are to live as the heavenly citizens that we are.