

The Responsibility of Salvation

I Peter 1:13-15

Introduction

A. The subject of this section of I Peter (1:3-2:10) is **the grace of God**. The term "grace" refers to the truth that God has made **Himself** available to every believer, to be to them whatever they may need, to live the Christian life, and to serve Him, successfully.

Note I Cor 1: 24,30; II Cor 8:9; 9:8; 12:7-10; I Peter 1:2, 10, 13; 2:3; 3:7; 4:10; 5:10.

B. The **key regarding grace**, that many believers overlook, is that while we have all the grace of God, legally, **grace is only powerful in our life when we practice it in the obedience of worship, faith, love, and hope**. God cannot bless us in the areas of our disobedience.

C. Three key verses in I Peter are 1:13-15. The seven admonitions in these verses explain what the believer must do to **cooperate with God** so His grace may be **powerful in daily life**.

I. The Admonition "Therefore" -- The Responsibility for Divine Revelation. (1:13)

Everything associated with salvation, the Christian life, and Christian service is directly related to God's revelation as fruit to seed, and a check to the bank account. It is God's Word that tells us what to believe and how to live and serve. **We must learn this foundation of life**. This is the **personal responsibility for each of us**. To fail here is to cause failure everywhere.

II. The Admonition "Prepare ... Action" -- The Responsibility for Preparation. (1:13)

This admonition directs us to prepare the way to carry out what we have learned from the Bible. It is twofold: (1) Clear away and **get rid of any hindrance** to obedience, and (2) **Make every necessary provision** so obedience can be implemented and applied.

III. The Admonition "Be Self-Controlled" -- The Responsibility to "Take Charge." (1:13)

The emphasis here is on practical and pointed obedience. We must **assume personal obligation to change** those areas of life where we are vulnerable and where we tend to be careless and self-protective. **If we do not control an area of life we may be controlled by it**.

IV. The Admonition "Set Your Hope on Grace" -- The Responsibility for Faith. (1:13)

Peter here reminds us that **we have the wisdom and strength in Christ**, to be the responsible person these admonitions define. God has not called us to live with our own resources. If we are willing, and make these choices, **God will more than meet us halfway**.

V. The Admonition "As Obedient Children" -- The Responsibility for Obedience. (1:14)

The word "**children**" is an idiom pointing back to our new birth (1:3). It reminds us of the most fundamental and wonderful relationship anyone could have -- that of being spiritually reborn, and brought into a living relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. The thought is on **resource**. Because we belong to God **every provision has been made for us**. The word "**obedient**" underlines the truth that Christianity is not only a belief but a **practice**. And that obedience **opens the door** so God has pour His wisdom and power into our life.

A parenthesis must be added here. The way I am writing this lesson, and the way these verses read, it appears that the Christian life can be quickly and easily carried out. **That is not the way it is in reality**. While there is no life more fruitful, blessed, and joyful -- the Christian life is not easy. The reasons are manifold: Our sinful nature, the world system about us, the pressure and temptation of the enemy, and the low level of spirituality in many of our Churches all present roads blocks to fast and easy progress. And, I must also point out the way we are often deceived and hindered by our emotions. Many times we **feel** like we do not need to grow. **We feel like we've grown enough and we're OK**. At other times we may **feel** very discouraged, inadequate, and passive. When like that the last thing we want to do is to do anything. Our emotions are very complex. **Some good rules to follow**: When we feel good -- enjoy them. When we do not feel good -- trace them back to the error and deal with it. When our feelings contradict the Bible -- then try to reject them and do what is right.

VI. The Admonition "Do Not Conform ... Evil" -- The Responsibility for Separation. (1:14)

The thought here is on those **powerful patterns** we have consciously or unconsciously been taught in our past. No one is without them. Some are good and some are evil. We must be willing to uncover those that are evil, acknowledge them, repent, and nail them to the Cross (Rom 6-8). We all have patterns of self-centeredness, jealousy, covetousness, pride, self-righteousness, grudges, anger, gossip, negativism, grudges, and spiritual laziness.

VII. The Admonition "Be Holy In All You Do" -- The Responsibility for Practice. (1:15)

Here again we are reminded of the importance of honest and consistent application of the Bible to practical life. We are all embarrassed as to how hard this is to do. However, the difficulty is not because of a lack of provision. It is usually found with us. We tend to go three steps forward and two backward. It is hard to be honest and transparent with God, ourselves, and one another. It is difficult for many to ask people to pray with them about a problem. And, we may not realize how serious a sin may be, that we permit in our life. Many Christians have brought great harm to their spouse, their children, their Church, and their own life, by talking negatively, or being worldly, or being dishonest. We may not live with sin in our daily life, whether we're talking about our thought life, our use of time or money, how we express our emotions, or in our social relationships. God wants us to obey Him so He can bless us.

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