***Omega: BIB 109***

***1st Peter – Always Be Prepared***

***Lesson 6***

***I. Obedient Children***

🡪 Christians have been born again into the family of God. God as our heavenly Father certainly desires that we his children have a very specific characteristic, as revealed in this next section of Peter’s letter…

 🡪 1st Peter 1:13-16

🡪 God wants His children to be many things, of course, but two things stand out in this passage. The first is “obedient”: our Father wants us to be obedient children (v. 14). In verse two Peter says we have been chosen “to obey Christ”; in verse 22 he says we have rendered “obedience to the truth.”

🡪 The other main attribute to which Peter refers is “holy” (vss. 15-16). Peter says we are called to “be holy” in all our behavior. To be obedient and to be holy are practically equivalent. We achieve holiness by obeying God’s law, which is based upon His own nature.

 ***A. The Mentality of Obedience***

 1. Obedience begins as a state of mind. Jesus taught us that both good and evil words and deeds have their beginning in the heart, i.e., the inward spiritual part of our nature.

 A. Matthew 12:34-35 and Matthew 15:18-19

 2. Here Peter is instructing us on how to be obedient children – He begins with instructing us to first of all to concentrate on our minds.

 A. Prepare your minds for action!

 3. His main point is that we should get our mental attitudes in order. Three aspects of an obedient mentality are commanded in verse 13.

 A. First, Peter tells us in essence to be prepared.

 1. “Gird your minds for action”… Greek 🡪 Literally a participle that says, “having girded up the loins of your mind.”

 2. Be in a state of readiness. Peter applies this figure of speech specifically to being mentally ready, to getting into the right state of mind.

 3. This shows us that being a Christian requires the use of the mind.

 A. Romans 12:1-2

 4. A large part of obedience is learning, believing, and proclaiming sound Biblical doctrine.

 5. Saving faith includes using our minds to accept specific claims about Jesus and salvation.

 A. Assent precedes trust

 6. We also, must be ready and able to confront and refute false ideas. Titus 1:9

 B. The second state of mind is self control – be sober minded.

 1. In a physical sense the word means to be sober, the opposite of being drunk.

 2. In the NT it is used for mental or spiritual soberness.

 3. The essence of this is… Be level-headed and serious minded; use sound judgment; don’t be a sucker for fads; don’t let emotions, cloud your judgment; be calm, collected, and mature.

 A. 2nd Timothy 4:5… “Keep your head in all situations” NIV

 4. An important factor: We are to make sure that we are in full control of our mental faculties at all times, insofar as that is under our control.

 A. This means that we not engage in activities that deliberately lead to conditions where we are in effect surrendering control of our minds.

 1. 3 examples of such surrender… Alcohol abuse, drug use, and mystical meditation.

 C. The third aspect of an obedient mentality – We must be forward looking.

 1. We rest our hope completely on God’s grace.

 A. Hope = a confident expectation of a future good.

 1. That future good is the salvation we know is awaiting us in heaven.

 2. “The light at the end of the tunnel”

 2. Our hope is based on the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that we have already received.

 3. We are justified by faith in Jesus – we are thereby in a state of peace with God. We live in confident expectation of our future glorified state.

 4. Peter seems to be emphasizing the grace that is yet to come at the 2nd coming of Christ… (1st Cor. 1:7)

 A. Our resurrection into new bodies.

 B. Our safe passage through the Judgment Day

 C. Our safe passage into our eternal home in the final heaven.

 5. Peter says we must fix our hope completely upon these future grace-gifts.

 6. Doubt should only be temporary. Doubts must be confronted until they are resolved.

***“My heart has no desire to stay where doubts arise and fears dismay;***

***Though some may dwell where these abound;***

***my prayer, my aim, is higher ground”***

 ***B. The Model of Obedience***

 1. God Himself is the model of obedience.

 2. What does it mean to be children of obedience?

 A. It means that we belong to a group or family whose nature is to obey the will of the heavenly Father.

 B. Because we have been born again into God’s family, obedience is our very nature; obedience is in our spiritual DNA. Our lives are characterized by obedience.

 C. Thus we are opposite of “the sons of disobedience.”

 (Eph. 2:2 & 5:6)

 D. We are to be holy. The obedience God wants from us is holiness; a holiness that is modeled after the very holiness of God.

 3. Holiness is not just obeying God’s will; holiness is imitating God’s very nature.

 A. 2nd Peter 1:4 – by imitating God’s holiness “you may become partakers of the divine nature.” (This applies to his moral nature, his moral attributes such as goodness and patience – not his metaphysical attributes such as omniscience and omnipotence)

 4. What Peter is thus saying is that when it comes to our lifestyle and our daily living, God Himself is our role model.

 A. In contrast to this Peter emphasizes that the role model is not the old, pre-Christian life. “Do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in ignorance.”

 1. Do not fashion yourselves after this false role model.

 2. Two characteristics of this false role model…

 A. The materialistic lustful culture of the pagan world. 1st Peter 4:3

 B. We are also forbidden to emulate ignorance.

 Ephesians 4:18

 1. You used to live in ignorance of God but now you must gird up your minds and be sober minded.

 2. The secular world of science and academia want to make everyone think that they are the brilliant ones and that Christians are the ignorant, stupid ones. The truth is just the opposite.

 5. Peter’s point is that the true role model for God’s obedient children is no less that GOD HIMSELF. God is the God of holiness.

 A. Ephesians 5:1 and Matthew 5:48

 6. What does it mean to say God is holy?

 A. It means that he is absolute moral perfection and purity – that He is unconditionally upright in His essence and His actions.

 B. It also includes His freedom from all sin, his absolute opposition to it, his total hatred of it.

 7. The main point of holiness is separation: to be separate, to be different, to be set apart from the world. The Greek word for Church is ekklesia – the called out ones.

 A. We are called out from the world and commanded to be holy – different from the world. The difference should be our holy living.

 8. Becoming holy is a lifestyle – a lifelong process with a specific goal. That goal is to be holy as God Himself!

 9. Peter says we must be holy in ALL our behavior – no exceptions!

 We cannot and should not divide our life into two parts, the “religious” and the “secular” 🡪 Holiness must flavor and shine though all of our life’s activities.[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. Entire Lesson pulled from: Studies in 1st Peter – Dr. Jack Cottrell. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)