

**UNIT 1: LIVING WITH HOPE IN A BROKEN WORLD**  
**LESSON: THE EXPRESSION OF OUR HOPE**

**THE QUESTION: WHAT IMPACT DOES HOPE IN CHRIST HAVE ON MY LIFE?**  
**THE POINT: OUR HOPE IN CHRIST CHANGES HOW WE VIEW THE WORLD AND LIVE IN IT.**

*Memory Verse: 1 Peter 1:14-15 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires of your former ignorance. But as the one who called you is holy, you also are to be holy in all your conduct.*

Introduction and Background: This epistle was the first of two epistles authored by Simon Peter written to his Jewish brethren scattered and living in foreign lands as a result of persecution for believing, obeying and followings the ways of Jesus Christ. Although authored by Peter, this epistle is thought to be arranged and composed by Silvanus his secretary (5:12)

The Bible reveals Peter's character and flaws during his spiritual growth and development. Peter could be impulsive and sometimes rude (Matt. 16:22) yet kind and tenderhearted (John 21:15); slow to understand (Matt. 15:15-16) and also profound (John 6:68-69); bold for Christ (Matt. 16:16) yet deny he knew Him (Mark 14:66-71) quick tempered and defensive (John 18:10) yet full of faith (Acts 5:40-42) gave his all but wanted something in return (Matt.19:27)

Peter was imperfect (**as we are**) and sometimes failed miserably (**as we do**) but he was determined to grow and become more like Christ. Through submission of his will, he embodied the character and conduct of the Lord Jesus Christ.

He overcame mistakes to become a strong leader and usually the primary spokesman for his fellow Jewish apostle brethren. (Matthew 16:15-18; Acts 4:7-12).

A major focus of 1 Peter is the future glory that awaits the Lord's people, therefore, based on the Word of God, believers wait on the revelation of Christ or his second coming and live with great expectations while displaying the "Expression of our Hope" through our character and conduct daily.

Conforming to Peter's teaching, requires a lifestyle that is significantly different from worldly lifestyles. Living in this manner, Christians will glorify God and show for the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9).

**LIVE IN HOLINESS RATHER THAN CONFORMITY TO THE WORLD**

**1 PETER 1:13-16**

*<sup>13</sup>Therefore, with your minds ready for action, be sober-minded and set your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>As obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires of your former ignorance. <sup>15</sup>But as the one who called you is holy, you also are to be holy in all your conduct; <sup>16</sup>for it is written, **Be holy, because I am holy.**<sup>[a]</sup>*

In the previous lesson in 1 Peter, the scripture teaches the "Basis for the Hope of believers is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:3). Now Peter teaches the kind of life that is compatible with such a hope is a life that requires action and a renewing of the mind.

Paul and Peter are consistent with the thought process of living for Christ starts with changing mental thinking in godliness which lead to godly actions and ways that are acceptable and glorifies God. Paul says it this way:

***Romans 12:2 King James Version (KJV)***

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.<sup>2</sup> And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

### A. Mentally Focus and Prepared

1. God requires our physical bodies, our talents and our minds.
2. Christians should be sober-minded (self-control, evenness of mind especially under stress) regardless of life circumstances, living in the hope with firm assurance of the grace that is ours when Jesus returns.

### B. Obedient Children

1. The return of Christ should be a motivation to live for Him.
2. Christians are part of one big family and should strive to be obedient as children are commanded to be (Eph 6:1).
3. The return of Christ should motivate us to live for

### C. A Standard of Morality

1. God is a Holy God and has called Christians to be emulate Him in being Holy.
2. Holy means to be “separated or set aside” for God’s purpose. Christians are separated from the world and are consecrated to God and therefore are forbidden to participate in the world’s immorality and impurity.
3. Holy or Holiness has to do with character and conduct and is rooted in submission to God’s Word and will:
  - a. citizens to government (Romans 13:1-2), servants to masters (Eph. 6:5; Col. 3:22), wives to husbands (Eph. 3:22-24, husbands to wives and Christians to one another.

Questions:

- What are some examples of conforming to the world?
- The culture of today challenge Christians to make a decision on controversial subjects, what are some lines you refuse to cross?

## II. LIVE AS PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN REDEEMED FROM THE WORLD 1 PETER 1: 17-21

*<sup>17</sup> If you appeal to the Father who judges impartially according to each one’s work, you are to conduct yourselves in reverence during your time living as strangers. <sup>18</sup> For you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb. <sup>20</sup> He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was revealed in these last times for you. <sup>21</sup> Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.*

Reverence: A holy fear of God, (not of terror) but proper respect and awe of God. (Holman Bible Dictionary)

Redeem To pay a price to secure the release of something or someone. (Holman Bible Dictionary)

As Christians, the way we live and conduct ourselves matters with God because we represent Him; a holy God who redeemed us by the shedding of His precious blood. We are known to others by the **God** or (god) we serve. Decisions, words, and actions reflects who we serve.

#### A. Reasons for Reverence (v.17)

1. Because we are God’s children, (John 1:12) we may approach Him personally as our Father which denotes ownership, mutual love, and adoration for each other.
2. God is impartial and shows no favoritism or respect of person (Rom.2:11)
3. We were redeemed from the penalty of sin (Rom. 6:23) with the blood of Christ

#### B. The Cost of Redemption (vv. 18,19)

1. The blood of bulls and goats under the Old Testament law could not take away sin (Heb. 10:4-7).
2. Redeemed by the blood of Jesus (Eph. 1.7)

#### C. Consecrated Offering (vv.20,21)

1. Before the foundations of the universe was laid, God made plans for human redemption
2. Through the ages and the fullness of time, God sent the sinless Lamb to redeem mankind.
3. The resurrection of the Lord assures us of our hope and is the anchor of our soul.

Spiritual Truth: Reverence for God is best demonstrated by our willingness to voluntarily die to self and obey His commands. Our character and conduct are effective ways our illustrates our redemption. (Gal. 2:20)

Question:

- What does reverence look like in your life each day?
- How has your life changed since you have been redeemed??

### **III. LIVE ACCORDING TO GOD’S WORD TO REMAIN PURE IN THIS WORLD      1 PETER 1:22-25**

<sup>22</sup> Since you have purified yourselves by your obedience to the truth,<sup>[a]</sup> so that you show sincere brotherly love for each other, from a pure<sup>[b]</sup> heart love one another constantly,<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>23</sup> because you have been born again—not of perishable seed but of imperishable—through the living and enduring word of God. <sup>24</sup> For All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like a flower of the grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls,<sup>25</sup> but the word of the Lord endures forever.<sup>[d]</sup> And this word is the gospel that was proclaimed to you.

Jesus taught us to have Christ-like love for others. When the love of God is poured out in our hearts, we do not look for opportunities to get even; and we often show goodness to those who do not deserve it.

- A. Being Born Again (Spiritual birth) Demands Exceptional Love (v.22)
  - 1. Living according to the Word of God enables loving all mankind and reflects the mark of a true disciple (John 13:34-34)
  - 2. Living according to God’s word requires you to love your enemies (Matt.5:43-48)
- B. Everlasting Word Produce Everlasting Life (vs 24-25)
  - 1. Accepting and living by the Word of God will yield everlasting life.

Question:

- How has the word of God changed the way you interact with others?