

All This and Heaven Too

February 24, 2019

[00:00:02] Church if you grab your bibles and your hand-held turn with me too. First Peter we're continuing this series the believers Guide To The Galaxy. The key is really the subtitle there which is navigating a world that is no longer our home.

[00:00:24] That's what Peter wants us to wrap our hearts and our minds around the fact that we have as followers of Christ. We have a dual citizenship. We live here in this world on this earth living out the days that God has given us but we are first and foremost born into a living hope that is kept in heaven for us that we are adopted children of a heavenly father and that we have a home that is with God that this world is no longer our home and yet we are called to live out our faith to bring others into faith to bring others into faith and there's three questions that Peter wants us to lock down on three key questions that he focuses on throughout his two letters. Question 1 Who am I. Because what. God has done for me. Who am I. Because of what God has done.

[00:01:33] For me how does this impact me my identity.

[00:01:40] Second of all how am I to live knowing that what I do and how I think has eternal consequences.

[00:01:51] So it is identity who am I. It is response. How do I live this out.

[00:01:59] For those of you that were here in I know you all had four baptisms over in Baker. But for those of you here in the sanctuary one of them was was Liberty Leonard and Liberty said she understood the gospel and she brought home. She came home told her parents about that and her parents she said. My parents were going to do something about that. Did you catch that and they were going to do something about that. And that's what that's what this point is what are we going to do about our faith.

[00:02:32] How am I going to live our faith out knowing that how I think what I do has eternal consequences.

[00:02:39] Third it's a question of future where am I headed beyond this life. Because if I'm clear on that then that truth impacts everything about the way I live the reality that we I will stand before a holy God given accounting of my life and it will determine my eternal future.

[00:03:07] So Peter in his introduction verses 1 through 12 digs this out he starts with this question of who I am. Verse 2 I am chosen by the father cleansed by Jesus and sanctified which means set apart for special work by the Holy Spirit. I love that we see the work of the Trinity in what God is doing in each of our lives. The father has chosen us the son has cleanse us. The spirit is sanctifying us which means a daily transformation in our hearts of God at work in a deep and significant way. Verse 3 we are reborn into a living hope through the resurrection. That's what baptism symbolizes is the resurrection laid in the grave raised to walk in newness of life reborn into a living hope.

[00:04:01] Verse 4 I am given an inheritance that will never go away.

[00:04:07] That will never go away. We have an inheritance. All of the all of the ways that we live out our faith on this earth. It's just like shipping ahead building material that God is using for an all to commit inheritance that we have church. This is our focus and we as those in the church for the

last two thousand years are fully aware of God's upper story plan of salvation.

[00:04:37] We see this in verses 10 11 and 12 where Peter says You guys need to know that the prophets like John and even Moses and Daniel and Isaiah they didn't fully understand what you know who Jesus is how he lived why he came the cross the impact of the cross the blood the Resurrection the Ascension the commissioning the work of the spirit if Peter is saying you see this and this informs who you are and then he shifts gears in Verse 13 because he's saying Praise be to God up in verse three shifts gears and then says OK therefore write you always know that when you see it therefore you have to ask what it's there for. Come on you all knew that right.

[00:05:33] Therefore this is a shift Boehme Peter is doing the very thing that Paul does in almost every one of his letters where he builds out theology and then he turns a corner and he says okay this is how you're going to live this out there for how we live is always in response to what God has already done for us how we live is a response to the work of Jesus on the cross. And Peter now focuses in these verses 13 down to 21 on three very key aspects of how we live out our faith and what it's based upon. We set our hope on the grace of Jesus OK not on our works not on what we do in our on our own strength but we set our hope on the grace of Jesus Second of all we walk in holiness because God is holy right.

[00:06:41] Hope holiness and ultimately he says we live in reverent fear. Let's look at these verses.

[00:06:47] Verse 13 therefore with minds that are alert and fully sober set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus is revealed OK there is hope.

[00:07:03] You need to lock your mind into this truth because if you don't you're going to get into the routines of life and you're going to lose sight of the things that really matter. Our hope is on the grace to be brought when Jesus is revealed in his coming as obedient children do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.

[00:07:26] But just as he who called you is holy holy set apart are distinct not common not not of the ways of this world so be holy in all that you do for it is written be holy because I am holy since you call on a father. Who judges.

[00:07:54] Each person's work impartially. You need to live out your time on this earth as foreigners here in reverent fear.

[00:08:07] There's the third key point for you know that it was not with perishable things like silver or gold that you were redeemed from your empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors but with the precious blood of Jesus Christ a lamb without blemish or defect. He Jesus was chosen before the creation of the world but was revealed in these last times. This age that we are now in the age of the church. For your sake through him you believe in God who raised him from the dead and glorified him so that your faith and hope are in God.

[00:08:52] You see them right. Hope holiness and reverent fear.

[00:08:57] Let me walk you through these with just a little more attention. Hope hope is reorienting our thinking to live alertly and soberly it's reorienting the way we think in fact a better translation of verse 13.

[00:09:16] Therefore with minds that are alert and fully sober set your hope on the grace that that phrase set your hope is actually one word in the Greek Elpis sauté Elpis sautee which literally means fix your hope.

[00:09:38] Fix your hope. This is this is your focus. This is what you are living for said your hope fully on the grace that will be yours by preparing your minds for action and being sober right. Sobriety means be in your right mind about these things and prepare your mind for action. Apparently in the study that I did the Greek actually there what Peter is using is some form of saying gird up the loins of your mind. That's apparently the the actual Greek gird up the loins of your mind. I think it's very much like what we would now say is roll up your sleeves and get to work. Only in these days when apparently a lot more people wore robes than they do now. The girding up your loins was literally what you would have to do if you were going to run in a robe. You could not just run in a robe with it you had to gird it up wrapping around your waist in order to run. That's that's the picture that Peter wants us to have you. You have to prepare your mind for action. This is this is a race. This is something that God is calling us to set your Hope fully on the grace that will be yours.

[00:11:06] By preparing your mind for action and being sober you know I want you to hear today I want you to be encouraged today that this church this is happening not just here today what's happening in the life of Kingstree church that we ought to be very excited about. The two baptisms in this service liberty and her testimony it was so incredibly articulate. But I all want to make just one clarification I said that S.R. Jeremy was baptized. I said the C.R. starts tomorrow at 7 at 630 OK. That was in my mind. I had the wrong time. So there is a correction. But. I want you to know what God is doing not just here at King Street but I don't know if you're aware that yesterday in Orlando was an event called the sand then you know this.

[00:12:03] Can it can anybody. And he hands there's like a handful of us to several that knew. This is they had a vision a vision.

[00:12:14] On the one year anniversary of the death of Billy Graham to have an event.

[00:12:20] And here was the vision for this event. We see an opportunity for a whole generation of believers to arise who will have no disconnect between their belief and their action.

[00:12:34] A whole generation of believers to arise with no disconnect between belief and action who instead of settling for a life of complacent Christianity will be activated into their evangelistic and missional calling. Join. Ok this was the printed vision.

[00:12:54] 60000 believers for the send. I got a message yesterday a video in my in my message box from emeny show Emily shown Labor who graduated from caches about 4 years ago she's been with Youth With A Mission why wham she's been around the world doing work. She's now in the States and she sent me a video yesterday from the middle of the field. I'll show it to you in a minute. But she told me in her in her message yesterday that their vision was 60000 believers to gather at Camping World Stadium in Orlando.

[00:13:31] They had over 84000 register 84000 for the send a collaborative stadium gathering febe 23 to Camping World stadium for a tipping point gathering that we believe could spark the greatest wave of evangelism and missions in history.

[00:13:51] I want you to hear what's what's happening here. I want you to see in fact here's your get a little dizzy because Emily really wanted me to see the whole thing but I'm going to show you again.

[00:14:22] Hold on. It's awesome. Yeah.

[00:14:32] And I want to I want you to hear the lyrics to this song. OK. This is not kidding around.

[00:14:39] And I will preach the gospel I'll die and be forgotten as long as you get the glory.

[00:14:49] Jesus you are worthy.

[00:14:54] This is closing the gap between complacent Christianity and action living it out in our lives so that God gets the glory church. This is real this is happening. The hope that we have the work that God is doing in this world is happening we have a generation being raised up to prepare their minds for action being fully sober. God I will die and be forgotten as long as you get the glory. I don't live in this world anymore. I mean I'm I'm I'm in it but I am not of it.

[00:15:37] And secondly a call to holiness apparently Francis Chan took the stage last night.

[00:15:45] Yesterday and spoke in his whole talk addressing this crowd was on holiness that we can never go out and impact the world if we're not living it out in our own lives.

[00:16:01] And that's exactly what Peter said with minds that are alert and fully sober. Set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Christ is revealed it is coming as obedient children do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as He Who called you is holy so be Holy.

[00:16:24] This word do not conform. It is a long old Greek word a monster of a word.

[00:16:30] Suz ChemE mot Keizo men nois.

[00:16:34] Oh that's a that's a word right there man.

[00:16:38] But that word may may means not not. I will not be conformed put into a mold that's what this whole Greek word means. Do not be conformed does that sound familiar at all. Romans Chapter 12 verses 1 into the mercy of God the calling of God. I will not be conformed to this world but I will be transformed by the renewing of my mind. Do not be. And here's what Peter says. But be holy and I want you to know what he means when he says that he says do good. This is how we live.

[00:17:18] Holiness is not just some sit you know quietly in a room although that's part of it connecting with God but then it's living this out. I love again what Liberty said what parents were going to do something about this. In fact this theme of doing good living out our faith is through out Peter. Chapter 2 verse 12 let me just show you over and over again lived such good lives among the pagans that though they accuse you of doing wrong they may see your good deeds verse twenty of Chapter 2. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong. But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it that's commendable. Before God. Chapter 3 Verse 6. Sarah. She obeyed Abraham and called him her lord you are her daughters. If you do what is right and don't give in to their way give way to fear or down in verse 11 they must turn from evil and do good down in Verse 17. Chapter 3 for it is better if it is God's will to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. Chapter 4 Verse 19. So then those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful creator and continue to do good.

[00:18:39] I want you to see what Peter is saying here that our holiness that our holiness comes out of a hope that we have in Christ but it is reflected in the way we live our lives.

[00:18:56] Why. Because what we do matters. It matters to God and it matters to others who are

watching you how we live matters to God.

[00:19:09] And it matters to others who are watching you holiness be holy in all that you do as obedient children.

[00:19:21] And the third thing that Peter then says is this is all done out of reverent fear. Our hope is in Christ and in his coming. We live it out in our lives because God is holy.

[00:19:34] We live holy lives and we know that our father is our judge who will determine our eternal destiny.

[00:19:44] Look at verse 17 since you call on a father who judges each person's work impartially live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear.

[00:19:59] This concept of reverent fear is not just an old testament concept although it very much is grounded when we see of the people of Israel gathered at the foot of Mount Sinai the thunder and lightning and in the clouds and the rumbling and the earthquakes it instilled in them a sense of the holy of God the holiness of God throughout the Old Testament.

[00:20:26] We see this you know the chief end of man as it is I'll turn just I'll give you one ecclesiastics. Chapter 12 The Summary of of of everything that Solomon in his wisdom had to say ecclesia. Let me read you ecclesiastics. Chapter 12 now. Always been heard. Here's the conclusion of the matter.

[00:20:47] Fear God and keep his commandments.

[00:20:50] Bottomline for this is the duty of all mankind.

[00:20:54] For God will bring every deed into judgment including every hidden thing whether good or evil.

[00:21:01] This reverent fear there is an aspect yes that we appreciate and understand the absolute power and might of God.

[00:21:12] But it's couched in this obedience of a loving father. You call on a father who judges each person's work impartially and verses 18 to 21 explain why we should have reverent fear why should we have this sense of reverent fear. And I want you to get a hold of this are reverent fear of God is ultimately rooted in the lengths that God went to save us.

[00:21:52] The incredible lengths the unfathomed. Do you realize the unfathomable face that God went to rescue you from judgment.

[00:22:04] Let's look at it first 18 for you know that it was not with perishable things like silver or gold. And the key word in all of this is the word redeemed redeemed.

[00:22:18] You have been purchased by God from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors. But with the precious blood of Jesus Christ a lamb without blemish or defect he was chosen before the creation of the world.

[00:22:34] But it has been revealed in these last times for your sake you have been redeemed by god bought back by God.

[00:22:48] For a purpose.

[00:22:50] So we live in reverent fear ultimately because what God has done to save us your life has a much higher purpose than you ever dreamed possible.

[00:23:05] I love what Peter is teaching us saying Our hope is in the return of Jesus Christ our calling is to live a holy life. And the reason we do this is because we have a father who sent his only son. You know the most precious substance to ever grace the face of this earth. How would you answer that.

[00:23:29] Well it's the most precious substance that has ever graced the face of this earth.

[00:23:36] I am telling you right now it is far and away the blood of Jesus Christ. That was shed on that cross to forgive us of our sins. To wash us clean we have been redeemed brought back with the precious blood of Jesus.

[00:23:57] Father God we come before you right now. We thank you that you are a holy God an awesome God. But we also bow our heads in our hearts deeply grateful today father that you are our Heavenly Father. That you love us deeply that you sent your son to die for us. Lord Jesus help us to prepare our minds for action.

[00:24:30] Father God I am really moved by this call to leave no gap between what we believe and what we do. Between our hope and our understanding of who we are in Christ and are our holiness and the way that we live out our faith before watching our God I thank you for what you're doing in this world.

[00:24:58] I thank you for what you're doing here at Kingstree.

[00:25:01] Father I thank you for what you're doing in our lives and our lives in us or Jesus we give ourselves to you today use us. We do not want to be conformed to this world. Transformed the renewing of our minds. In Jesus name Amen.