

Wherefore

Harmony M.B.C., November 22, 2009 (Morning)

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1Peter 1:1-22

A great thing has happened to each one of us who has been made new by the gracious work of the Holy Spirit in behalf of Jesus Christ who gave Himself a ransom for our souls. In the first 12 verses of our text the apostle writes about this glorious truth. There are innumerable sermons in these first 12 verses, and I hope if the Lord lets me live long enough, I will be able to preach many from them. But this morning we offer them as an introductory to the body of our sermon. And what a glorious introduction it is! We are guided through so many of the fundamental yet enormous truths of the gospel here; the truth of our election to salvation; the truth of God's predetermined plan to effect our salvation; the truth of the Holy Spirit's work in setting us apart through spiritual obedience unto purification by the blood of Jesus Christ; the truth of the everlasting hope that has been given to us by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead; the truth of our eternal security as we are kept by the power of God which ensures an everlasting inheritance reserved in heaven for us. These amazing truths come like waves of glory as we read these verses and we are left silent in awe at the stupendous grace of God that has been shed upon us through Jesus Christ. And it is this spiritual tsunami from God that brings us to the subject of our sermon; "Wherefore."

With that bridging word from the apostle, we are drawn from our overpowering contemplation of the wonderful works of God in Christ for us; drawn as a result of the magnitude of that glorious work to consider our own role in this amazing plan of grace. The Word of God at the pivot point of verse 13 directs our hearts to consider our spiritual condition, our attitudes, our practices, our objectives, our vision in the midst of our life altering experience of salvation and eternal inheritance. So, let us take up the things that we have been called upon to consider within the framework of the amazing grace of God which is operating in our lives. "Wherefore...." (At least seven things are present here).

I. v. 13 "...gird up the loins of your mind...." Get control of the creative power of your brain

- Acts 17:11 (About the Berean brethren): These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they **received the word with all readiness of mind**, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so.
- Acts 20:19 **Serving the Lord with all humility of mind**, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:
- Rom. 12:2 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.
- Eph. 4:23 And be **renewed in the spirit of your mind**;
- Isaiah 26:3 Thou wilt **keep *him* in perfect peace, whose mind *is* stayed on thee**: because he trusteth in thee.

II. v. 13 "...Be sober...." Get serious with your life

- (Sally Field in her Boniva commercial: “I have this one life, and this one body....”)
- Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the **life which I now live in the flesh** I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.
- Philippians 1:21 “For to me **to live is Christ....**”

III. v. 13 “...hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you....” Keep your confidence in what lies in your eternal future

- 2Tim. 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but **unto all them also that love his appearing.**

IV. v.14 Take responsibility for your spiritual shaping

- obedience to your Heavenly Father is essential for this
- remembering what you were before salvation; using it as an example of what NOT to shape yourself as
- Again: Rom. 12:2 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.
- Tit. 2:11-12 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;
- 2Pet. 3:18 But **grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

V. v. 15-16 Mimic the Master of your calling

- be holy

VI. v. V. 17 Correctly evaluate both your works and you attitude about them

- Godly fear acts as a set of reins does on a horse to keep us in check about our works.
- Godly fear is like the steering wheel of a car; it puts what we are doing down here in proper perspective.

VII. vv. 18-22 Keep your God-given love pure, alive and flourishing

- v. 18 makes it clear that the Spirit empowers us to love the brethren with a “not fake” love (the right start)
- we are to make sure that it continues to be that spiritual thing