

The Serious Business of Hope pt. 1 Response Guide

1 Peter 1:13-21

Bethany Assembly of God

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- Read 1 Peter 1:13
- 1 Peter 1:13 says to “prepare your minds for action” or to “gird the loins of your mind.” Can you think of a common phrase we use to tell people to get ready?
- What do you think having a sober state of mind means?
- Why is hope such a prominent part of the Christian walk?

Big Idea: You can set your hope fully on God’s grace.

1. You should be holy in all you do.

- Read 1 Peter 1:14-16
- What is holiness?
- Can you give an example of something that is holy?
- In the Christian life, what is the purpose of holiness? What’s the motivation?
- Have you ever thought of holiness as a list of rules? Talk about why that is an unhelpful way to think about it.
- Have you given any thought to the pervasiveness of God’s call to holiness? It encompasses your whole life. Do you ever feel the pull to segment certain parts of your life off from God? Is there a part of your life that you just never even considered that God wanted to influence and change?

2. You should be reverent while you’re here.

- Read 1 Peter 1:17-21
- What is “the fear of the Lord?”
- Are we supposed to fear God’s judgment or that we won’t be let into heaven?

- Read Romans 8:1
- In these verses from 1 Peter, “fear of God’s judgment” can be understood as respect for God’s discipline. Why is it important to respect or reverence someone who disciplines you? Why would that be particularly important with God?
- What about this passage indicates to you that God is not being harsh or tyrannical but actually has your good in mind?
- When you think about the high price God paid for your freedom (redemption), how does it inspire reverence, holiness, and hope?

Conclusion

- Read James 4:4
- Do you consciously bring every circumstance and activity of your life to God, submitting it to His holiness?
- Are you currently experiencing God’s discipline in your life? Are you submitting or resisting?
- Do you live with a serious attitude, a reverence before God remembering the high price at which you were redeemed?