

“Stand Fast!”

The First Epistle of Peter

Lesson 3, for Sunday, October 28, 2001

“... like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior.” 1 Peter 1:15, NAS

“Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is*, through the living and abiding word of God.” 1 Peter 1:22-23, NAS

The Outline

I. Comfort and reassurance in suffering (1:1 -1:25)

- A. Salutation (1:1,2).
- B. Reassurance in the realized facts of Christ’s gospel (1:3-12).
- C. Reassurance in divinely bought holiness of life (1:13-25).

The Argument

Do the right thing! Do not miss the mark, but instead follow Jesus’ example, and trust that your salvation is secure. Dedicate yourselves to Him, and behave as He would. Follow Him.

Do the right thing! Since your behavior is seen by the Judge of all, behave properly. Remember that your salvation was purchased by the blood of Jesus, the Judges’ Son. God let it be known thousands of years ago that He would do this, and He did what He said He would do. He did it for you, so believe Him completely.

Do the right thing! Since you have been bought back from the slavery of sin, and since He has purified your hearts, love one another as he has loved you. The cost of your salvation was extremely high, and He paid it all. All present day glory will come to nothing in the end, but our God and His Word last forever.

Do the right thing!

The Key Words

Holy: ἅγιος (ha’-gee-os) -- pertaining to being holy in the sense of superior moral qualities and possessing certain essentially divine qualities in contrast with what is human - 'holy, pure, divine.' Examples: 'be **holy** in all that you do, just as he who called you is **holy**, because it is written, Be **holy** because I am **holy**' 1 Pe 1.15-16; 'Lord ... for you alone are **holy**' Re 15.4; 'our conduct toward you who believe was **holy** and right and without fault' 1 Th 2.10.

Grace: χάρις (ka’-rees) -- grace, kindness, mercy, a special manifestation of the divine presence, activity, power or glory; a favor, expression of kindness, gift, blessing, thanks, gratitude. Examples: 'the Lord is with you, you to whom (the Lord) has shown **kindness**' Lk 1.28; 'which he has **graciously** shown us in the one he loves' Eph 1.6; 'he left, being commended by the brothers to the **kindness** of the Lord' Ac 15.40; 'your speech should always be **pleasant**' Col 4.6.

Fear: φόβος (fo’-bos) -- a state of severe distress, aroused by intense concern for impending pain, danger, evil, etc., or possibly by the illusion of such circumstances. Examples: 'with **fear** and great joy they quickly left the tomb' Mt 28.8; 'troubled in every way, conflicts without and **fears** within' 2 Cor 7.5; In a number of languages there is no noun-like word for 'fear.' Accordingly, expressions containing such a noun in Greek must often be restructured so that the corresponding semantic unit may be expressed by a verb. Therefore, instead of 'fear,' one may have expressions such as 'be afraid' or 'to fear.' Instead of 'fears within' (2 Cor 7.5), one may translate 'in our hearts we were afraid.'

The Quotations

1 Peter 1:16b “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” Leviticus 11:44

1 Peter 1:24-25a “All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls off, but the word of the Lord abides forever.” Isaiah 40:6ff