

1 Peter 1:13-16

- I. The Christian is to gird up the loins of his mind.
 - A. gird: To surround, encircle with a belt or girdle, esp. for the purpose of confining the garments and allowing freer action to the body. *Fig.* To prepare for action; to brace up for, to, or to do something.
 - B. Note the usage of *gird* in **EXO 12:11; LUK 12:35-37.**
 - C. The believer should not allow his thoughts to roam without restraint. **2CO 10:3-5; PHIL 4:6-8.**
 - D. The believer's mind is to be in a state of preparation for the coming of the Lord.
- II. The Christian is to be *sober* in view of the coming of the Lord.
 - A. sober: Moderate, temperate, avoiding excess, in respect of the use of food or drink; not given to the indulgence of appetite.
 - B. In **1TH 5:4-8** the believer is exhorted to *soberness* in view of Christ's coming. This soberness is contrasted with *drunkenness*.
 - 1. Drunkenness is a state of insensitivity. **PRO 23:35.**
 - 2. The believer must not allow his sensitivity to the coming of the Lord to be dulled by excesses. **LUK 21:34-35.**
 - 3. The servant who becomes indifferent to the Lord's coming is described as one who becomes drunken. **LUK 12:45.**
 - 4. (**PHIL 4:5**) Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.
- III. The believer is exhorted to hope to the end for the coming of Christ.
 - A. Hope serves as a helmet in battle. **1TH 5:8.**
 - B. Keeping one's attention fixed on the coming glory puts present afflictions in perspective. **ROM 8:18.**
 - C. Hope *to the end*.
 - 1. Thank God, there is an end. **PRO 23:18.**
 - 2. Grace will be brought to the believer at the end; his expectation will be realized. **COL 3:4; 1JO 3:2.**
 - 3. By contrast, the expectation of the wicked perishes in the day of his death. **PRO 11:7.**
 - D. Believers are to hope to the end for grace to be brought them *at the revelation of Jesus Christ*. c/w **1PE 1:7.**
 - 1. The two-stage theory of Christ's return supposes an invisible return for a secret rapture of the saints from this world years before His revelation/appearing.
 - 2. Why would Christians hope to the end for the grace to be brought them at the revelation of Christ if this grace was given them at the rapture years earlier?
 - 3. We are to be obedient *until the appearing* of Christ (**1TI 6:14-15**), not until a secret rapture where we will be perfected years before His appearing.
- IV. Obedient children live in readiness for Christ's appearing. v. 14 c/w **1TH 1:9-10.**
 - A. The second coming and Christian conduct are inseparably linked together. **2PE 3:12-14; 1JO 3:3.**
 - B. Without the second coming, the whole Christian religion collapses. **1CO 15:13-14, 23, 32, 58.**

- V. lust: Pleasure, delight; desire, appetite, relish or inclination for something.
- A. Lust is coveting which is desiring. **ROM 7:7 c/w EXO 20:17 c/w DEU 5:21.**
 - B. All lust is not bad. **EZE 24:16; GAL 5:17.**
 - C. Scripture forbids lusting after evil things. **1CO 10:6; HAB 2:9.**
- VI. While in ignorance, these believers fashioned their lives after their lusts. **1PE 4:2-3.**
- A. Those who know not God are regulated by their lusts. **1TH 4:5.**
 - B. These lusts are called the *former lusts* because they characterized their former life *in times past*. **EPH 2:1-3.**
 - C. Being born again and converted, they are called upon to change the pattern of their lives.
 - D. Obedience consists of not fashioning oneself after the former desires, but after the holiness of God.
 - E. To pattern ourselves after God's holiness, we need a knowledge of God as the incomparably Holy One. **EXO 15:11; 1SAM 2:2; ISA 57:15.**
- VII. These ungodly lusts are in a believer's flesh and war against his soul. **1PE 2:11; ROM 7:18, 22-23.**
- A. These lusts are marshaled by Satan who is attacking the image of God in the believer. **EPH 2:2; 6:11-12; JAM 3:14-15; 1TH 3:5.**
 - B. Consider the array of evils Paul calls upon believers to mortify. **COL 3:5-9 c/w ROM 7:8.**
 - C. Encompassed with such evils, the church has only survived by the prevailing intercession of Christ. **LUK 22:31-32; EXO 17:11.**
- VIII. We must not love the lust that is in the world. **1JO 2:15-17.**
- A. The corruption that is in the world is through lust. **2PE 1:4.**
 - B. Recall that Satan is the prince of this world that is corrupted through lust. **JOH 14:30.**
 - C. One cannot preeminently love God and preeminently love the desires of this world.
 - D. Lust allures because of the pleasure it offers.
 - 1. The lusts of the world pass away. **HEB 11:25.**
 - 2. A fulfilled lust is never as wonderful in the end as it appears in the beginning. **2SAM 13:1-18.**
- IX. If lust is indulged, it will draw the soul into sin. **JAM 1:14-15.**
- A. Lusts leads to *enticement*.
 - B. entice: To stir up, incite, instigate (to a course of action); also to provoke (to anger); to allure, attract by the offer of pleasure or advantage.
 - C. When we are enticed, we are already stirred up, provoked, or allured to action.
 - D. Lust deceives its victim. **EPH 4:22.**
 - 1. Lust will justify sin.
 - 2. Or lust will convince you the temptation is too powerful.
 - E. Sin is obeyed in its lusts. **ROM 6:12.**
 - 1. Sin is appealing because of the lust or desire one has for it.
 - 2. Deal with sin at the level of desire and it will not be served.
 - 3. Therefore, lust must be fled at its inception; it must not be allowed to mature. **2TI 2:22.**
- X. Beware of the lust of the eyes as this leads to fulfilling the lust of the flesh. **1JO 2:16; JOB 31:7; NUM 15:39.**

- A. Eve ate the forbidden fruit after she focused her eyes upon it. **GEN 3:6.**
- B. Sexual immorality begins with looking. **2SAM 11:2; EZE 23:14-17; MAT 5:28.**
- C. Covetousness begins with the eyes. **PRO 28:22; 23:5.**
- D. Idolatry is eye religion. **DEU 4:19; EZE 6:9.**
- E. The believer must set no wicked thing before his eyes. **PSA 101:3.**
- F. The believer must watch and pray to guard his eyes. **PSA 119:36-37.**
- G. Thank God, He made the eyes to close and the head to turn!

XI. Scripture directs us in how to avoid fulfilling the lusts of the flesh.

- A. The flesh with its lusts was defeated at the cross. **GAL 5:24; ROM 6:6, 11-12.**
- B. We must believe in Christ and what He has accomplished if we are to overcome the world. **1JO 5:4-5; EPH 6:16.**
- C. Therefore, the Christian is assured he will not fulfill the lust of the flesh if he walks in the Spirit. **GAL 5:16.**
 - 1. This is an intelligence report about the enemy.
 - 2. Satan and lust CAN be successfully resisted as we submit to God in humility. **JAM 4:6-7.**
 - 3. Walking in the Spirit is being regulated by the word of God. **REV 19:10; PSA 119:1-3, 9, 11; PRO 7:1-5.**
- D. **(MAT 26:41)** Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.
- E. Avoid all situations conducive to fulfilling fleshly lusts. **ROM 13:14; PRO 4:14-15; 5:8; MAT 5:29-30; EPH 4:27.**
- F. Mortify *lasciviousness* (that which is inclined to or incites to lust).
- G. Stand in awe of this Holy God as this is a great deterrent to fulfilling the lusts of the flesh. **PSA 4:4; PRO 16:6.**