For Hard Times

Committed To A Life of Holiness

1 Peter 1:13-21
The believers’ living hope based on their new birth should lead to a lifestyle of holiness. Those chosen for new birth are also called to be holy. Peter exhorted his readers to prepare to meet the challenge of obedience by adopting a new mindset. The price paid for a believer’s redemption calls for reverence and obedience. Obedience involves purifying oneself and practicing holy living, while offering spiritual sacrifices as a royal priest.
“If we ourselves hope to make any progress in the pursuit of holiness, commitment is absolutely essential. One reason we do not see more progress in holiness in our lives is because we have, for the most part, lost sight of the necessity of commitment.”
“COMMIT YOURSELF TO GOD”

• “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship.” — Romans 12:1
'When we commit ourselves to the pursuit of holiness, we need to ensure that our commitment is actually to God, not simply to a holy lifestyle or a set of moral values. The people of my parent’s generation were generally honest, chaste, sober, and thrifty. They were committed to those values, but they were not necessarily committed to God. Many of them were outstanding moralists and even church people, but they were not committed to their values, not to God.'
“COMMIT YOURSELF TO GOD”

• “The apostle Paul had already called for a commitment to God in Romans 6:13. There he wrote, “Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.” In that verse Paul drew a sharp contrast between offering the parts of our body to sin as instruments of wickedness and offering them to God as instruments of righteousness.”
“COMMIT YOURSELF TO GOD”

“But the basis for this diametric change of commitment is the offering of ourselves — our entire being — to God. We cannot control what our eyes look at, what our mouth speaks, or what our hands and feet do, if our whole being, including our mind and heart, is not committed to God.”
“COMMIT YOURSELF TO GOD”

• No, we cannot, or perhaps will not, keep these commitments perfectly, but keeping them perfectly should at least be our aim. In a battle, some soldiers will always be hit, but every one of them makes it his aim not to be hit. To have a lesser aim would be the height of folly for the soldier, and it is just as dangerous for us in the battle with sin.”
Five Challenges Toward A Holy Life. 13-16

1. Prepare Your Minds for Action, v13:

- Gird up refers to the girding up of the loose eastern robes preparatory to running or other exertion. “Roll up your sleeves for mental action.”

- Obedience is a conscious act of the will. Christians in conflict need a tough-minded holiness that is ready for action.
2. Be Self Controlled, v 14:

-This word nēphontes, from the verb nēphō ("be sober") is used only figuratively in the New Testament. It means to be free from every form of mental and spiritual "drunkenness" or excess. Rather than being controlled by outside circumstances, believers should be directed from within.
Five Challenges Toward A Holy Life. 13-16

2. Do not conform, v 14:

-by not conforming to the world! As σχήμα is the outward, changeable fashion, as contrasted with what is intrinsic, the word really carries a warning against conformity to something changeful, and therefore illusory.
3. Set Your Hope Fully: 13

-Holy living demands determination. A believer’s hope is to be set perfectly and without reserve on the grace to be bestowed when Jesus Christ is revealed.
4. Let Go of Evil Desires, 14:

Former “lusts” is literally “passionate desires,” here, as the context indicates, evil desires. The word “lust,” when the a.v. was translated, referred to any craving or strong desire, good or bad, as the context indicated. Today, its meaning is confined almost entirely to that of an immoral desire.
Five Challenges Toward A Holy Life. 13-16

5. Be Holy, v16:

- The argument here is logical and simple. Children inherit the nature of their parents. God is holy; therefore, as His children, we should live holy lives. We are “partakers of the divine nature” (2 Peter 1:4) and ought to reveal that nature in godly living.
The High Cost Of A Holy Life.

v 17-21

• The high cost of salvation—the beloved Son’s precious blood—calls for believers to live in reverent fear before God. Holy living is motivated by a God-fearing faith which does not take lightly what was purchased at so great a cost.