

Living Before God Our Father (1Peter 1:13-25)

I. INTRODUCTION – HOW SHOULD WE THEN LIVE?

- A. Theologian and Christian philosopher Francis Schaeffer wrote a book in the seventies called, “How Should We Then Live?” The book was about the rise and decline of Western thought and culture. It was made into a major Christian cultural and historical documentary film series to help the church understand their place in today’s culture.
- B. Here is a quote from Wikipedia: *According to Schaeffer, How Should We Then Live traces Western history from Ancient Rome until the time of writing (1976) along three lines: the philosophic, scientific, and religious. He also makes extensive references to art and architecture as a means of showing how these movements reflected changing patterns of thought through time. Schaeffer's central premise is: when we base society on the Bible, on the infinite-personal God who is there and has spoken, this provides an absolute by which we can conduct our lives and by which we can judge society. This leads to what Schaeffer calls "Freedom without chaos." When we base society on humanism, which he defines as "a value system rooted in the belief that man is his own measure, that man is autonomous, totally independent", all values are relative and we have no way to distinguish right from wrong except for "synthesis, pragmatism, and utilitarianism." Because we disagree on what is best for which group, this leads to fragmentation of thought, which has led us to the despair and alienation so prevalent in society today. He warns that when we live by these values we will be tempted to sacrifice our freedoms in exchange for an authoritarian government who will provide the relative values. He further warns that this government will not be obvious like the fascist regimes of the 20th century but will be based on manipulation and subtle forms of information control, psychology, and genetics.*
- C. The Apostle Peter lived in the shadow of the Roman Empire and Emperor Nero who unleashed severe persecution on Christians after the burning of Rome in A.D. 64 which was blamed on Christians. It is said that Nero would take a chariot ride through his gardens and light the way with martyred Christians who were made human torches.

II. LIVE SOBERLY AND BE HOLY

- A. **Live Soberly:** In the midst of persecution, in the midst of *living as citizens of another world*, Peter says, “*gird up the loins of your mind*” (v.13). It literally means, *gather your long flowing garments and get ready for physical action.*” He says, Wake Up – Be sober! Get prepared for action! [The importance of watching and sobriety – Luke 21:34-36].
- ¹³“*Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to your former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written’ Be holy, for I am holy.” (1Pet. 1:3-15).*

- B. **Live Holy:** “as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct” (vv.14-15).
- C. To be holy is to choose to live your life with an attitude that says, “I want to live to please my Lord, to love the things that God loves and hate the things that God hates!” regardless of what anybody else does. We belong to Jesus! We are His, living for what God desires!
- C. “**Holy**” is the word “*hagios*” – It means sacred, pure, morally blameless, set apart. When you’re holy, you guard your heart – [The heart of the problem is the problem of the heart] (Mk. 7:15, Jer. 17:9). You guard your mind (Rom. 12:1-2), and you guard your eyes (Job. 31:1).

III. THE OUTWORKING OF SALVATION

- A. Peter explains the outworking of salvation. He says; *let me remind you how salvation has come to you.* Now, more than ever, we must teach and preach the truth about who God is and how to live before Him. There is a truth “vacuum” in the world we live. Christians have been shamed into a corner. However, we are called to proclaim what truth and reality is in a post-Christian world!
- “...conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold... but with the precious blood of Christ, as a lamb without blemish or spot.” (1Pe. 1:17-19). “Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit... having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever” (1Pe. 1:22-23).**
1. You are saved through the precious blood of Christ (Matt. 26:28, Rom. 3:24, Eph. 1:7, 2:13, Heb. 9:14, 1 Jn. 1:7, Rev. 1:5). Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin. Christ gave His life to redeem us. John said, “*behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*” (Jn 1:29).
 2. You are saved by the Holy Spirit (Jn. 3:1-5, 16:7-11, Rom. 8:1-16, Eph. 2:18). Jesus said, “*unless one is born again... of water and of Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God* (Jn. 3:5). Again he said “*when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment*” (Jn. 16:8).
 3. You are saved by the Word of God (Jn. 15:3, Rom. 1:16, Eph. 5:26, James 1:18). The word if God is agent by which we are saved. Peter calls it *the incorruptible seed*. Paul said, “*that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the Word* (Eph. 5:26). James said, “*Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures*” (James 1:18).

IV. THE ETERNITY GOSPEL

- A. The gospel of God is the eternal Word of God. “**All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers and its flower falls away, but the word of the Lord endures forever. Now this is the word that was preached to you.** (1Pe. 1:24-25). God’s word through the Gospel is eternal (Ps. 119:89). It is the everlasting Gospel (Rev. 14:6-7).