Sermon Notes for November 17, 2013

A Call to Be Holy

I Peter 1:13-16

Introduction

“Salvation is necessary for God’s people to live like God’s people in the world.” Scot McKnight

This is how we should live as God’s people.

- Hope – 1:1-12
- Holiness – 1:13-16
- Reverence – 1:17-21
- Love – 1:22-2:2

It is hard to live without hope.

God also calls us to be holy.

- Holiness is not a popular idea anymore.
- The word holy means “to be set apart or devoted to something”.
- As Christians, we belong to God.
- Holiness also means we are to be separated from sin.

When I think of holiness, I think of a person who:

- Experiences great joy. I Peter 1:8
- Has victory over sin. I John 1:7-10
- Displays the fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23
- Authentic, Genuine
- Becoming the person God made them to be.
- Fully devoted to Christ.

I. Holiness begins with our mind. Verse 13

Peter begins with three short commands that all relate to our thinking.

- “Prepare your minds for action."
- “Be self-controlled”
- “Set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed."

Be careful what you watch and what you listen to.
“Above all else guard your heart, for it is the well spring of life.” Proverbs 4:23

“I will be careful to lead a blameless life. I will set before my eyes no vile thing.” Psalm 101:2-3

Let Philippians 4:8 be your guide.

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”

II. Holiness is a choice we make every day to say no to the world and yes to Christ.
Verse 14

Holiness has two sides to it and both are necessary.

- On the one side, only God can make us holy.
- On the other side, it is up to us to use what we have been given.

It is like Romans 12:2.

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

How are you doing in this area?

III. Holiness is a call to be like our Father. Verses 15-16

Listen to these instructions.

- We are to be holy, because God is holy. I Peter 1:16
- We are to walk in the light, because God is in the light. I John 1:7
- We are to love, because God is love. I John 4:7-8
- We are to be imitators of God as dearly loved children. Ephesians 5:1

A holy life is a powerful witness for God.

Conclusion

To be holy is to be like Jesus.

- Turn from sin.
- Turn to Christ.
- Let him fill you and work through you.