

Our world is in desperate need of hope.  
Our young people are increasingly depressed.  
They have access to more information and technology than ever before and it only makes things worse.  
No matter what your political affiliation is it is hard to go through an election cycle with any hope.  
We see story after story of another pastor or church covering up sexual abuse.  
Church attendance is down nationwide. Many churches in our own community have had to close their doors forever.  
Our culture and world continues to march far from Jesus.  
What God calls evil the world calls good.  
And worse than that the church decides to do and act evil to stop all the world's evil.  
That's just the reasons the larger world causes us to lose hope.  
But all of us are facing different things in the circumstances in our lives that can make it hard to have hope.  
Some of us just need hope to get through another boring day at work.  
Some of us need hope just to survive another day with our children.  
Hoping that it won't be like it was today and it'll get better.  
Some of us are struggling to hope that family member person we love that we've prayed for for a very long time. Still doesn't know Jesus their life is still a disaster.  
Some of us need hope just to face another day in a house that is just far too quiet.  
Some of us need hope because we're just in so much pain.  
The doctors and nobody else can give any answers.  
We just don't know when it's ever gonna stop hurting or stop being a problem.

The theme of our series is living in exile. 1 Peter reminds us that we are exiles here in this world. And living as an exile can be difficult. One of the most difficult things is to have hope. How can we hold onto hope even when things fall apart?

Turn with me in your Bibles to 1 Peter 1:13-25.

Point 1: **Our hope needs to be disciplined.**

Having hope is not a passive thing.

It is not something simple.

It is not just an attitude you can have after taking deep breath.

Having real and lasting hope takes work.

And if we are going to have true Christian hope in a lost world,

Then we need to be disciplined about our hope.

This is what Peter tells us.

Verse 13, **"Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on them race that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."**

Now before I explain more about what disciplined hope looks like,

We need to talk about what we are hoping for.

Because there is a distinctness about Christian hope.

We do not just hope like Shirley Temple that the sun will come up tomorrow.

We do not just hope that tomorrow will be better than today.

Our hope is specific.

Our hope is in Jesus.

First our hope is in His grace.

Our hope is in the gospel.

We can only have hope here in the valley of death because we know Jesus already walked through here.

And Jesus brings resurrection.

We also have hope that His grace and mercy is on the way.

**"the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."**

Our hope is that Jesus is coming back for us.

Our hope is that one day the grace of Jesus will fully revealed to us.

Our hope is that the world now is not as it always shall be.

One day all of these kinds and queens will fade away.  
One day all suffering will cease.  
One day all pain will be no more.  
Every tear from every eye will be wiped away by Christ.

He is our hope.  
Not that the right person will win an election.  
Not that our kids will turn out okay.  
Not that we will experience some minor victory in our life.  
Not that we will achieve our goals.  
Our hope is in the revelation of Christ.  
Our hope is in the moment we will get to behold Him with our own eyes.  
Our hope is for when we no longer have to rely on pastors to explain to us what Jesus meant.  
We can just go and ask Him ourselves.

Now in order to keep our hope in Jesus.  
In order to not sink when we see the wind and the waves,  
We have to have discipline.  
It takes work.

We are to **"Set your hope fully on the grace"**

This is an imperative command.  
Peter is commanding us as Christians to set our hope on Jesus.  
This takes work.  
We have to check ourselves and our hearts.  
We have to actively put our hope in Jesus.

And we have to keep it there.  
Our hope fully has to be in Christ.  
Most Christians have their hope in Jesus.  
At least some of the hope.  
But we do not always have our hope fully in Jesus.

Sometimes we start to put part of our hope else where.  
We may have hope that Jesus will fix the world when He returns.  
But we put our hope in ourselves to fix our problems for today.  
Or we put our hope in politicians and governments believing they can deliver our country from it's problems and sins.  
We put our hopes in entertainment believing it can take away our pain.

We are constantly and continually tempted to place our hope in other places.

We drift.

Like someone driving a car down the highway.

It is easy to pay attention at first.

But if you are driving for ten hours it is hard to keep your full attention on the road.

Your mind starts to wander.

You start look off the road at signs, or at your phone.

You start to feel tired and want to close your eyes.

It takes discipline stay focused.

But it is important because you can't just go on auto pilot as you drive.

And you cannot go on auto pilot in the Christian life.

If you think you will just automatically keep your hope fully in Christ because you are a Christian.

Or because you are still a Christian today, then you are going to be deceived.

You will not realize how often our eyes and hearts wander.

You won't see how far off the road you have drifted until you crash.

How can we set our minds fully on the hope of Christ?

How can we be disciplined here?

Peter gives us two ways to discipline our hope.

First we are to **"preparing your minds for action"**

Your translation may say, **"girding your loins for action."**

The meaning is about the same.

But it is a particular image or picture Peter is painting for us.

Picture a Roman Christian wearing a long robe that goes all the way down to their feet.

And now that person needs to run, wrestle, or do some strenuous physical activity.

They are going to have to pick their robe up and get ready to go.

This is what Peter is saying.

We need to gird our loins and be ready.

Roll up your sleeves.

Put our big kid pants on.

Put your hair up.

We need to actively prepare our minds.

We need get ready to work.

And our minds need to be ready to actively put our hope fully in Christ.

Part of that is just daily asking ourselves, "where is my hope?"

It is thinking and looking at whether our not our hope is actively in Christ or not.

It is asking whether this thing you are consuming is helping you put your hope in Christ or if it is taking away your hope.

Disciplining our hope also means **"being sober minded."**

It means having a clear mind.

Not letting the world or the powers around us cloud our minds.

To be sober minded is to be self-controlled.

To not allow other substances to control or dictate how we respond.

Often we talk about sobriety referring to drugs or alcohol.

These substances that cause us to lose self-control.

Peter is not just calling us to avoid substances.

He is calling us to keep control of our minds.

To not allow the world to take us off of our hope.

To keep our minds clear and focused.

There are plenty of things that want to control your mind.  
There are plenty of things in our world that threaten to take away our self-control and our hope.  
Our devices and screens constantly call for our attention.  
They want us addicted and a huge way they do this is by addicting us to negative news or stories.  
Showing us the worst and most rage inducing things they can so we keep coming back.  
And each time we scroll and watch we often do it without thinking.  
And we don't realize how quickly they can take our sobriety away.  
They take away our self-control and they take away our hope.

I've been watching a lot of Olympics this month.  
There are a lot of things I love about it.  
It is incredible to watch some of the best athletes in the world compete at the highest levels.  
But every single one of these sports takes incredible discipline.  
Not just recently.  
For four years these athletes have had to discipline themselves.  
They have had to practice and work out every single day.  
They have had to discipline themselves in what they eat.  
Where do they live.  
They have to discipline themselves in every single area of their lives.

All of that for a shiny piece of metal that will fade.  
And for records that will be broken in four years.  
Names who will all be lost and forgotten by most.  
But we run and compete for a prize that will never fade.  
We should show similar discipline.  
Set your hope fully on Christ.

**Point 2: Hope leads to childlike holiness (v. 14-15).**

If we understand the hope that we have in Christ.  
If we understand the future that awaits those who put their faith in Jesus.

If we remember that this world will fade and eternal life awaits us,  
Then it changes how we live.  
Then it makes us want to live holy lives.

In the gospels, Jesus tells His disciples they need to be like children.  
We are to have a childlike faith and trust in God.  
But we also need to have a childlike holiness.  
I don't mean that children are born without sin and are holy.  
I am referring to how children naturally imitate and want to be like their  
parents.  
We should imitate and want to be like our heavenly Father.

Verse 14, **"As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions  
of your former ignorance."**

We are to be like children.  
But we are to be like obedient children.  
There is quite a difference between obedient children and disobedient  
children isn't there?  
If you have worked with kids or spent much time around kids you see it  
quickly.  
Some kids are great and obedient.  
Some are not.

And early on when they are young it really is not their fault.  
Because it's all about who their parents are.  
If a 4 year old has a terrible attitude and is a menace, it is probably their  
parent's fault.  
The same is true of all of us.  
Because before we become followers of Jesus, our father is Satan and sin.  
And we were raised by sin.  
We were trapped in the passions of our former state.

But when you put your faith in Christ, you are adopted into His family.  
We become sons and daughters of the King of the Cosmos.

Now we have a new Father to look up to.  
And part of the expectation is that we be and act like this Father.  
We no longer do what we used to do.  
We no longer conform to the world.  
We do not act like the world acts.  
We are no longer passionate for ourselves and the world's pleasure, but instead are passionate for the kingdom of God.

Verse 15, **"but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct."**

Because He is holy and perfectly without sin.  
And He calls and commands us to be like He is.  
A question that comes for us is what does it mean to be like God?  
After all, none of us in this room are God.  
God is beyond our comprehension.  
He is perfect.  
He is incapable of sinning.  
He cannot even be in the presence of sin.  
How am I supposed to be like that while I live in a sinful world?

That is why the incarnation is so significant.  
Jesus, who is truly God, came down to earth and became a man.  
God is flesh walked among us.  
And He showed us what it means to be holy.  
When you want to know what it is to be holy, look to Jesus.  
This is why we try to emulate Jesus.  
Sanctification is the process where God transforms us to be more and more like Jesus.  
And we slowly grow in holiness.

**"be holy in all your conduct."**

The expectation for Christians is that we are holy in everything.  
We do not get to pick and choose which areas of our life we would like to be holy in.



We cannot tell God we will be holy in how we talk, but I am going to be a little unholy in what I watch.

We cannot tell Christ we will be unholy in one part of our lives but it is okay because we are so holy elsewhere.

No.

As God's children, we are to be holy in all of our conduct.

In all of our life and in how we act in everything.

Verse 16, **"Since it is written, "You shall be holy for I am holy."**

This is a quotation from Leviticus 11:44.

It is really a summary of the entire book of Leviticus.

The whole book is a list of instructions on how we are to be holy.

We are not under the Mosaic law any longer.

But the same requirement and call has not gone away.

Our God is still holy.

He has not gotten any less holy.

And we are called to be holy.

We are called to be like Him.

We are to imitate Him.

We cannot be holy like God on our own.

But the good news is that Christ came.

He demonstrates what being holy means.

Those who put their faith in Jesus are declared holy.

Not because of what we do, but because of what Christ has done for us.

And then the Holy Spirit goes to work making us holy and like Jesus.

And now that we are a part of God's family, be holy.

Now this can be hard to live out in a sinful world.

Because the world is not interested in being holy.

And it can make us want to act like the world instead.

You discover this when you have children.

Not every family does things the way you do.  
Not every family has the same rules and expectations you do.  
Some families let their kids watch stuff you don't want your kids to watch.  
Or they use language you don't want your kids to use.  
And what I have to continually tell my own children, because they are discovering this is "We don't do that in this family."  
Now other families might talk that way.  
But you will not.  
Because you are my sons.  
Because you are in this family.  
I want you to act like this.  
No matter what the people around you do.

It is the same way for believers.  
God is our Father.  
We must be holy.  
It does not matter what other people do.  
It does not matter what the world says is okay.  
We must be holy because God is holy.

And the reason we are holy is because of our hope.  
One day Jesus will come.  
And we want to have lived holy lives when it comes again.

**Point 3: Hope leads to reverent fear (v. 17-21).**

Our hope in the salvation Christ should lead us to living in reverent fear.

This is the command Peter gives us in verse 17, **"And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds,"**

If God is our Father,

Meaning if you are a Christian.

If you have put your faith in Jesus Christ alone as your only hope in life and death.

Then you need to remember that God is the ultimate judge.

Sometimes I hear people who are not even Christians say, "only God can judge me."

And they say it dismissively.

They say it without understanding how dangerous and terrifying that should be.

If only God can judge you, you should live like He will!

WE should live as if one day we will stand before God in the throne room of heaven.

And that every single one of our actions.

Everything we have said, thought, or done will be judged.

And it will be compared to the holiness of God.

And judged impartially.

How should that make us live?

**"conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile."**

We should conduct ourselves with a reverent fear.

With an understanding that one day we will stand before the judge.

Fear does not mean that we need to be terrified.

We should not be laying awake at night in a cold sweat.

It does not mean it should give us anxiety.

But we should have an understanding of how significant this is.

We should be living as if God is watching.

We should be living with a reverent respect for God.

And we have to do this while we are living in exile.

Again the reminder from Peter that this world is not our home.

We are outsiders here.

And being an outsider means it will be hard.

The world will not live in reverent fear of God.

They will not care that God will judge them.

But we must.

Even if no one around us does.

Why? Verse 18, **"knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ,**

But our motivation again is not terror.

We are motivated by reverence because of the gospel.

Because of what Jesus accomplished for us.

Here Peter describes the gospel as a ransom.

We were held captive.

Sin had us trapped with no escape.

We had no hope of getting out.

Until Jesus came to pay our ransom.

He did not buy us with money, or gold, or silver.

Our ransom was paid with the blood of Jesus.

Because only the blood of Christ could free us from sin's grasp.

Only the blood of Christ could set us free.

**"like that of a lamb without blemish or spot."**

This is a reference to the passover lamb.

The spotless lamb that was killed to spare Israel from death.

Jesus was the perfect sacrifice.

And He died to spare us from death.

That we may live and live forever.

Jesus' blood is the only one who could ransom us because He lived a perfect life.

Because He was truly God and truly man.

Only He could die in our place.

Only He could pay our ransom.

Only He could set us free.

**"He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are**

**believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God."**

The plan to set us free was set in place before God said let there be light. God already knew we would fail and be trapped in sin.

And Jesus planned to come and get us.

The plan happened from the very beginning, but no one knew what the plan was until it happened.

Even the disciples were surprised when Christ was raised from the dead. But it because of the death and resurrection of Jesus that we can have faith and hope.

And that faith and hope should lead to us living with reverence for God.

Out of gratitude and awe for what Jesus has done for us.

As we live in reverent fear for God, it leads us to loving others.

Point 4: **Hope leads to sincere love (v. 22-25).**

When our hope is fully set on God, it leads us to sincere love.

Because our hope is not just for ourselves.

Christianity is not a religion focused on self-improvement above all else.

It all boils down to the love of God and the love of others.

You cannot love God without that leading to a sincere love for others.

And you cannot sincerely love others with a pure heart without loving God.

Verse 22, **"Having purified your souls by your obedience.**

This is continuing what Peter has been saying.

He has been calling us towards holiness and purifying our souls.

That we continue living more and more like Christ.

And the Holy Spirit slowly sanctifies us and purifies us.

**"to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart,"**

That purity needs to lead to love for others.

And our love needs to be sincere.

Christians should not just put up with one another.

We should not just tolerate each other.

We need to love one another.  
Not going through the motions.  
Not acting like children whose mom told them they had to hug.  
We need to love each other earnestly.  
Deeply and truly.

But this kind of love can only come from God.  
Because we cannot have pure hearts on our own.  
Our love will be selfish or warped.  
But through Jesus it can be truly and pure.

Verse 23, **"since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God"**

Now what does this mean?

First, it is a reminder that our pure love comes from being born again.

But it also reminds us of our hope.

Our hope is that we have been adopted into the family of Christ.

Our hope is that we are brothers and sisters in faith.

And this family is not a perishable family, but an imperishable one.

The family of Jesus will never fade.

Verse 24, **"for all flesh is like grass and all its glory is like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever."**

This verse should sound familiar to you if you have been here awhile.

I quote it every week after I read God's Word for us.

It is from the book of Isaiah in 28:16.

This is not just a reminder of how the Word of God endures.

It tells us the family of God endures.

What does this mean?

It means every moment we spend loving each other is meaningful.

Not just because it pleases God.

But because the family of God lasts forever.

If you are annoyed with some other believers, you might need to get over it.

Because they are not going away.

They are your brother in Christ.

They are your sister in Christ forever.

But this is joyous news.

It means every moment spent together is investing in an eternal relationship.

It means that loving for the widows and orphans.

caring for those in the nursing homes.

Loving those who are sick and dying.

Moments that seem to offer us nothing.

Those moments will matter.

Because we will see and speak to those people again.

And every time we spent with them in this life matters.

We can only do this through our hope.

The hope that this life is not the end.

So, love one another with a sincere hope.

Love one another because Christ loves us.

Christ did not just die for you and your sins.

He died for the sins of the person you get frustrated by.

Christ died for the person you cannot stand.

Christ died for the person who is your enemy.

Because Jesus loves them, we should and must to.

But we can only do this love with hope.

Our love needs to be motivated by the hope and new life we have in Christ.

Just trying to be kind and loving to one another in our own strength will not work.

It cannot last.

But through Jesus, it can.

**CONCLUSION:**

- We need a disciplined hope (v. 13).
- Hope leads to childlike holiness (v. 14-16).
- Hope leads to reverent fear (v. 17-21).
- Hope leads to sincere love (v. 22-25).

We all desperately need hope.

And the hope we need can only be found in Christ Jesus.

You will not find it anywhere else.

If you are not a Christian, I invite you to come to Jesus.

He is your hope.

He can offer you not just hope but eternal life.

He can offer you hope for tomorrow and every day afterwards.

You just need to put your faith in Him.

You need to repent and turn from your sins.

Give up the old ways of your ancestors and turn to the ways of Christ.

And find your true hope.

Christian, you still need the hope Jesus offers.

There is so much in this world that will take your eyes off Christ.

There are circumstances that will cause you to lose hope.

Don't lose hope.

Do not become callused or numb.

Don't go on auto pilot.

Be disciplined in your hope.

Set your hope fully on Christ.

Because everything in the Christian life flows out of our hope and faith in Christ.

Keep your hope in Jesus.

He will give you all you need.