

Gospel Therefore

Gospel Thinking - Part 2

Knowing What God's Done & What We Should Do

1 Peter 1:2-21

Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Brad Bigney, July 15, 2012

I. Soaking in the Gospel Indicatives Will Keep You Rejoicing in the Face of all kinds of Trials that we Know Will Come

1 Peter 1:3-7

II. Obeying Gospel Imperatives Will Keep You from Wasting Your Life & Living Like You're Clueless to the Power and Promises of God

1 Peter 1:13-17 “¹³ Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” ¹⁷ Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.”

If you know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, then He's called you to fight – by His grace and for His glory.

A. Get Your Mind in Gear

1 Peter 1:13 “... gird up the loins of your mind...”
NIV “... prepare your minds for action...”

The Bible is filled with verses that call us to think and examine what's going on in our head, and to sift through those thoughts with the truth of God's Word!

2 Corinthians 10:5 “Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ”

If you want to please God and finish well, you cannot go through life unaware of what you're thinking or unprepared for the mental assault that's happening to you every day. Our minds are being bombarded because Satan knows the battle is won or lost with the mind!

Colossians 2:8 “Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.”

Where you fix your mind will largely determine how you live your life!

Philippians 3:18-19 “¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame— who set their mind on earthly things.”

Colossians 3:2-3 “Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth, for you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”

B. Take Charge of Your Choices

Decide what you will and will not do. You don't have to live at the mercy of your feelings and your sinful urges.

1 Peter 1:13 "... be self-controlled..."

The stranglehold of sin has been broken in your life! The presence of sin is still there, but the power of sin to OWN you has been broken.

Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."

C. Set your hope in the right place

1 Peter 1:13 "... set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed..."

You should get excited and set your hope on the fact that you're going to SEE more of Christ, KNOW more of Christ, and TASTE more of the grace and beauty of Christ.

The return of Christ was meant to be a life-changing doctrine that intersects with the nitty-gritty of what you're facing right now.

D. Don't Just Go with the Flow but Push Back Against the World and Your Own Flesh

1 Peter 1:14 "... not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance."

Ephesians 4:17-20 "¹⁷ This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸ having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; ¹⁹ who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. ²⁰ But you have not so learned Christ"

We're not just saved by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We're supposed to BE like Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 4:1-4 "Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ² that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. ³ For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. ⁴ In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you."

E. Stop Making Excuses for Your Sin – and Start Aiming for Holiness

1 Peter 1:15-16 "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.'"

The argument here in these verses is logical and simple. Children inherit the nature of their parents, so if you're a child of God you should live holy because He's holy!

2 Peter 1:4 We are "partakers of the divine nature"

If you're a Christian, then the Spirit of God lives in you; and His very nature should be seeping out of the pores of your life. You shouldn't be able to keep it in!

The root meaning of the word 'holiness' simply means "different or distinct." Not perfect, but there's supposed to be a qualitative difference about us that increases more and more and more as the years go by.

F. Live like you're just passing through

I Peter 1:17 "... live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear."

This is not our home because we live life in the shadow of eternity, so we should be thinking about it all the time – not just where we ARE but also of where we're GOING.