**FOCUS** in 2020

September 20, 2020

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**THRIVE –** *A Study of 1 Peter*

***A Call to Completeness – 1 Peter 1:13-25***



**Don’t you want to THRIVE**?

**Last week we began a journey of learning to THRIVE! A journey** that leads us through the book of 1 Peter. A journey of letting go and of **holding on**. Letting go of all that is **temporary** to grab hold of all that is **eternal**. Letting go of all that is **empty**, in order to embrace **fullness**. Letting go of the **perishable** to experience what is **imperishable**.

Today we look at 1 Peter 1:13-25 ...

*13****Therefore****, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” 17 And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, 18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.*

**How do we thrive regardless of our circumstances?**

Let’s look at what Peter says in the second part of verse 13.

***set your hope******fully*** *on the* ***grace*** *that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.* ***1 Peter 1:13b***

Peter’s exhortation to thriving - no matter your circumstances - is that…

You set your hope fully on **grace.**

Setting your hope fully on God’s grace will help you thrive in this world.

1. Grace is a **state** of mind.

*Therefore,* ***preparing your minds for action****, and* ***being sober-minded,*** *set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.* ***1Peter 1:13***

If we talk about this idea that Peter is expressing here in modern day terms for us, we might say “Roll up the sleeves of your mind.” In other words, get ready, get mentally prepared, **pull in all the loose ends of your thinking** and get rid of anything that would hinder your forward progress.

Peter then says to be **“sober-minded.”**

Think **clearly**.

Guard your minds from the hope - diminishing distractions and causes in the world. Do not misplace your hope in the wrong thing.

**Misplaced Hope:**

* When our hopeful thinking is set on the fact that we can be good enough ... what we are left with is **Shame**.
* When our hopeful thinking is in stuff ... what we are left with is **Materialism**.
* When our hope is in a mistake free life ... what we are left with is **Regret**.
* When our hope is about controlling an uncertain future ... what we are left with is **Worry**.
* When our hope is in ourselves ... what we are left with is **Self-Sufficiency**. And it falls always short!

If your mind is setting your hope on any of those things, you have got some loose ends to cinch up. Think more clearly than that and fully set your hope on God’s grace if you want to thrive. **Grace is a believer’s state of mind!**

1. Grace **empowers** our lives.

It empowers our lives for salvation ... but also for holy living.

*As obedient children,* ***do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance****, but as he who called you is holy, you also* ***be holy in******all your conduct****, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.****1 Peter 1:14-16***

**If you know Jesus personally, do you remember what you were like before you came to know Him?** We were ignorant in our thinking and actions. We - by our sinful nature - were just that … sinful.

Paul took an honest look back on our lives before Christ in Ephesians chapter 2.

*And you were* ***dead*** *in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of* ***disobedience****— among whom we all once lived in the* ***passions of our flesh****, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature* ***children of wrath****, like the rest of mankind.* ***Ephesians 2:1-3***

That was not thriving … that was dying! You were dead!

Grace is God’s power for the **powerlessness** of our lives.

Thriving is living in obedience to God ... no matter your circumstances. And it is God’s grace that gives you the power to live that way.

**Titus 2 it says:**

For the **grace of God** has appeared, **bringing salvation** for all people, **training us** to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and **to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age**, waiting for our blessed **hope**, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us **to redeem us** from all lawlessness and **to purify** for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Grace empowers us to say **NO** to sin. (Old Life)

*Grace is not simply leniency when we have sinned.* ***Grace*** *is the enabling gift of God* ***not to sin****. Grace is power, not just pardon.*   
– John Piper

*God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.* **2 Cor 9:8**

Grace empowers us to say **YES** to God. (New Life)

Grace empowers us to say yes to God’s character becoming our own ... and it also empowers in a us a fresh start when we fall short.

Grace is given not because we have done good works, but in order that we may be able to do them. – St Augustine of Hippo

1. Grace gives your life **perspective**.

The gift of God’s grace gives us the right perspective in our lives if we are going to thrive.

*And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds,* ***conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile****, 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, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.* ***1 Peter 1:17-19***

Your ransom was a heavy cost to God. When you understand how much grace God has given you, and what it cost Him to redeem you, it changes your perspective. Proverbs says to fear the Lord; it is the beginning of knowledge and to fear the Lord is to hate evil. To fear God is to have a deep consciousness of God while you travel as an exile on earth.

If you want to thrive - no matter your circumstances - let me echo Peter, Paul, and so many other godly influences and simply encourage you to …

**Receive** grace.

*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.* **Ephesians 2:8-9**

**Live** in grace.

*Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.* **Hebrews 4:16**

*“My grace is sufficient for you, for* ***my power*** *is made* ***perfect in weakness****.”* **2 Corinthians 12:9**

*And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.*   
**John 1:16**

**Extend** grace - love each other sincerely with a pure heart. Grace overflows out of our lives.

*Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love,* ***love one another earnestly from a pure heart****…* ***1 Peter 1:22-23***