

FIXING OUR HOPE

1 Peter 1:13c, **"fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."**

As we have been working our way through the commands that we are given by the Lord in the wonderful letter that Peter wrote **"To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen,"** we have learned that we are to **"prepare [our] minds,"** and we are to **"keep sober."**

Today we look at the next command which is that we are to **"fix [our] hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."** This imperative is really the main focus of this verse. The word **"fix"** is translated from the Greek word *elpisate* and it is what is called an aorist active imperative. This word was used in reference to the military and Peter uses it here to exhort believers to a decisive kind of action. We are to **"fix"** our **"hope"** as an act of the will, not just some nebulous emotional feeling. We are being commanded here to live expectantly, anticipating with a **"living hope"** from verse 3, our **"inheritance...reserved in heaven...to be revealed in the last time."**

Genuine and real hope is a vital spiritual reality, one of three preeminent virtues that all Christians are to have. 1 Corinthians 13:13 says, **"But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love."** But what is **"hope?"** I think this word is one of the words that we Christians use a lot but far too often we don't really know what it means. Hope is the Christians attitude toward the future. Acts 24:15 says, **"having a hope in God... that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked."** Essentially **"hope"** is faith. Romans 5:1-2 says, **"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God."** Hope and faith essentially are trusting in God. The major difference between the two attitudes is that faith involves trusting God right now. Romans 1:17 says, **"For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'BUT THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.'"** Hope on the other hand is a future faith, trusting God for what is to come. Hebrews 3:6 says, **"but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house – whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end."** Faith takes hold of what God has already said and done in His revealed Word, and hope anticipates what He will do, as promised in the Bible.

The word **"completely"** that is used here means without reservation, and it can also mean **"fully"** or **"perfectly."** As Christ followers we should not have a half-hearted hope or a hope that is indecisive, but we should have a hope that is final and without any waffling or doubt as it concerns the promises of God in His Word.

We put our hopes in a multitude of things, especially in the culture we live in here in America. We place our hopes in our money, in our jobs, in our ability to succeed. We place our hope in our health, our families, our relationships, our ability to be entertained. The list is virtually endless. The problem with all of those things is that none of them are lasting. Every single thing that was just listed, and more, can vanish in an instant. This is all part of preparing our minds, of keeping sober. One of the ways that we do this is by being completely fixed on Jesus Christ.

As it says in verse 3, Jesus is our **"living hope."** In fact Jesus Christ is the only hope for this world. But unlike everything else in this world He will never disappoint and we will not disappear if you believe in Him. Unfortunately in the church today we have placed our hopes on a lot of things other than Christ. Let's not do that any longer, instead let our final and greatest hope be in Christ and **"grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."**