"AN UNSHAKEABLE <u>HOPE</u>

I Peter 1:13
10-3-2021

> ***1 Peter 1:13***
> *Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*

INTRODUCTION:

Let nothing <u>shake</u> you from your confident hope!

I. The <u>FOCUS</u> of our Hope
("Gird up...your mind, be sober")

II. The <u>DURATION</u> of our Hope
("to the end")

III. The <u>OBJECT</u> of our Hope
("the grace that is to be brought to you")

IV. The <u>TIMING</u> of our Hope
(*"at the revelation of Jesus Christ")*

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INTRODUCTION:

This verse marks the "turning point in the tone of I Peter. It has appropriately been called 'the hinge upon which the Epistle turns'." (Hiebert, p. 85)

"Wherefore" - This word forms a bridge to all that Peter has written previously.
In light of your salvation; because of the great salvation you have
(a salvation that is so important, so intriguing, so grand that:

1) The O.T. prophets studied it (v. 10-12a)
2) The Holy Spirit preaches it (v. 12b)
3) Angels are fascinated by it (v. 12c)

Because of your eternal salvation (which you can never lose (v. 3-5); in light of your eternal salvation that won't let you down (despite temporal trials) (v. 6-9); in light of the fact that God is faithful to His promise of the "salvation of your souls" (v. 9) . . . he now exhorts us on to serious, steadfast, unflinching, unshakable Christian living!

"Wherefore" - Peter now gets practical in vv. 13ff.

He moves on from doctrine to duty,
from theology to daily living,
from salvation to sanctification.

He calls for a response in light of the great truths he has revealed.

Beginning in verse 13, God gives us a complete presentation of the serious Christian life that should flow from our great salvation (Hiebert, p. 89).

Verses 13 - 2:10 unfold God's prescription for serious Christian living.

The serious Christian is one who has:

1. An unshakable hope (v. 13)
2. A Godly holiness (v. 14-16)
3. A reverent lifestyle (v. 17-21)
4. A genuine love (v. 22-25)
5. A spiritual desire (2:1-10)

"Hope" = be confident; through eyes of faith be confident or sure regarding God's gracious salvation. Hope is the confidence (or assurance) that comes from faith (the two words are often tied together - Rom. 5:2-5; I Cor. 13:13; Gal. 5:5-6; Col. 1:4-5; I Th. 1:3, 5:8; Heb. 6:10-12; I Pet. 1:21).

"Hope" - this "hope" is that *"living"* hope (1:3), that *"blessed"* hope (Ti. 2:13 - *"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ")*

A sense of confident expectation about something future forms a basis for how we feel and act in the present (EX: Lk. 23:8; cp. Phil. 2:19, 23).

EX: a family looking forward to a future vacation lives with optimism, joy, and anticipation in the present.

Christians live now in the present in light of what the future holds.

Our "present actions and decisions are governed by this future hope. Just as an engaged couple makes all their plans in the light of that future wedding, so Christians today live with the expectation of seeing Jesus Christ (our Bridegroom)" (Wiersbe, p. 395).

"Outlook determines outcome; attitude determines action. A Christian who is looking for the glory of god has a greater motivation for present obedience than a Christian who ignores the Lord's return. The contrast is illustrated in the lives of Abraham and Lot (Gen. 12-13; Heb. 11:8-16). Abraham had his eyes of faith on that heavenly city, so he had no interest in the world's real estate. But Lot, who had tasted the pleasures of the world in Egypt, gradually moved toward Sodom. Abraham brought blessing to his home, but Lot brought judgment. Outlook determined outcome." (Wiersbe, p. 396).

Our future hope is the greatest incentive for present Godly obedience and faithfulness!

***Let nothing shake you from your confident hope!**

I. The FOCUS of our Hope
("Gird up...your mind, be sober")

"The original makes *'set your hope'* the only imperative in the verse, the central and leading idea. Two participles precede the controlling imperative and designate the activities that support hope" (Hiebert, p. 90).

"Hope to the end" - This is the imperative; this is the command. The word ***"gird up"*** and ***"be sober"*** as participles simply give us the secret of how to have such an enduring, unalterable, unshakable hope.

"Gird up the loins of your mind" = Bind up or gather together your thoughts. This figure of speech is "based upon the gathering and fastening up of the long flowing Eastern garments os that they would not interfere with the individual's activity" (Ryrie). The closest modern cliche is "roll up your sleeves" - the idea is to remove any inhibiting thing that would prevent you from serious work.

What God is calling us to do is to have our thoughts together, focused; to be able to run the Christian life without distraction, without interference, without occasions to stumble.

"Girding the loins" - was a metaphor for preparation for aggressive activity in both the Old Testament and New Testament (Hiebert, p. 90) (Ex. 12:11; I Ki. 18:46; II Ki. 9:1; Jer. 1:17; Lk. 12:35; Eph. 6:14, etc.).

To avoid entanglements and obstacles.

"Loose thinking results in loose living" (idea cited by Hiebert, p. 91)

The Christian life is won or lost in the "mind." What you think about is an accurate reflection of the stability of your life. God is exhorting us to a disciplined thought life; an understanding or mind-set that is shaped and molded by the promises of God's holy Word - by His unalterable promises.

"When you center your thoughts on the return of Christ, and live accordingly, you escape many worldly things that would encumber your mind and hinder your spiritual progress" (Wiersbe, p. 395).

"Be sober" - describing a serious mindedness; this participle (*nepho)* "signifies to be free from the influence of intoxicants" (Vine). It supports the participle of "girding the loins" of one's mind in that our God expects us to be clear headed; to not let the worries, trials, problems, worldly affairs of this life cloud our thinking process and distort or interfere with our "hope" (ILLUS: troublesome driving in the fog).

II. The DURATION or our Hope
("to the end")

"to the end" - to the finish line; to completion; to the end goal; to the "end zone" of our life.

The "end" in view in this verse is the Rapture.

As "the end" draws closer, as "the day" approaches (heb. 10:25), there will be many many distractions that will try to undo our hope. Satan will unleash His fury and attempt to rip apart the confidence of God's children. Our faith will be tried and tested (1:7).

Why the need to endure in one's hope ***"unto the end"?***

1) The proliferation of: demonic doctrines (leading to apostasy) (I Tim. 4:1ff)

2) The prevailing sin in society (II Tim. 3:1ff)

3) The persecution and pressures brought on by Satan and his Antichrist (Mt. 24)

Note the phrase *"he that shall endure unto the end shall be saved"*

Because of the troubles, pressures, afflictions, persecutions Christians will face in the last days, God exhorts us to remain patient (SEE: James 5:7-9).

III. The <u>OBJECT</u> of our Hope
("the grace that is to be brought to you")

"the grace" - this is the object of our "hope." God is saying be confident that "grace" is on its way.

Not only are you now already saved by grace (Eph. 2:8), but a special grace will be brought by Jesus Christ when He returns.

What would this "grace" include?
(whatever it involves, will be undeserved, unearned, unmerited. It will include free gifts by God through Christ)

At the Rapture what will Christ give us?

1) Deliverance from physical death
I Cor. 15:51 - *"Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed."*

2) Glorified bodies

I Cor. 15:52-55 - *"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"*

"I Jn. 3:2-3 - "Beloved, how are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."

3) A Family Reunion

I Th. 4:13-18 - *"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him."*

4) Rescue from God's wrath

I Th. 5:8-9 - *"But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ."*

II Th. 1:7-10 - *"And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day."*

5) Rewards for faithful service

Rev. 11:18, 22:12 - *"And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth." "And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."*

6) The greatest blessing: Jesus Christ Himself

John 14:3 - *"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am there ye may be also."*

IV. The <u>TIMING</u> of our Hope
(*"at the revelation of Jesus Christ")*

***"the revelation"* -** the *apocalypsis*; the unveiling, revealing, disclosing, the appearing.

The word "revelation" is the same Greek word translated "appearing" in verse 7.

The Rapture and Revelation are one and the same event!

The Rapture will not be a secret, invisible, hidden event! Christ will be revealed like lightning when He comes!

"Revelation" always refers to Christ's second coming and particularly to the Rapture (I Pet. 1:7; <u>4:13</u>; II Th. 1:7; Rom. 8:18-19; I Cor. 1:7).

CONCLUSION:

"When the **<u>out</u>**<u>look</u> is gloomy,
try the **<u>up</u>**<u>look</u>!" (Wiersbe, p. 396)