

# Lesson 7



## **LESSON OUTLINE:**

PRAY

READ

ENGAGE

ANSWER

CONNECT

HOMEWORK

## **READING:**

1 PETER 1

## **STUDY TEXT:**

1 PETER 1:13-14

## **THEME:**

THE CALL TO  
HOLINESS (PT.1)

## **STUDY METHOD:**

Attributes of God  
Promises of God  
Principles for Life  
Lessons to Learn  
Examples to Follow

## **FURTHER STUDY:**

ISAIAH 6

1 THESS 4:1-8

## **MEMORY VERSE:**

1 PETER 1:15

## **PRAYER & PRAISE:**

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## **MINDS ENGAGED**

The phrase, “*preparing your minds for action*”, was a common allusion to the manner in which the Orientals were accustomed to dress. Their loose outer garments were gathered up, bound, and tucked into their girdles before embarking on a journey, running, or fighting. The meaning here is that the Christian’s mind must always be ready to move, engage, and do battle with the enemy. All worldly wisdom, foolish patterns of thinking, and distractions must not be allowed to impede the Christian’s progress in this journey of faith.

Too many Christians have their minds entangled in the affairs of this life. Because of this, they are distracted, disinterested, and incapacitated in the spiritual battle. The mind is not a playground, it is a battle ground. Every Christian must actively “*take every thought captive*”<sup>1</sup> and renew their minds through the Word of God.<sup>2</sup>

There is no “*neutral*” in the spiritual life. We are either “*driving*” our minds towards truth and Christlikeness, or we are in “*reverse*”, and losing ground in the battle.

To be “*sober-minded*” is to operate with self-control, clarity of mind, and moral decisiveness. It is not just alcohol that affects our thinking. Many-a-Christian is inebriated with the cares of this life, temptations of the flesh, earthly pursuits, and even false doctrines which blur the mind, rendering men and women incapable of serving Christ effectively.

What shall be on the mind of the Christian? The glorious fact that Jesus is coming again! This is what Peter means when he says, “*set your hope on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*” In other words, don’t pin your hopes on temporal things - be assured of the Lord’s return, and make this your compelling motive for enduring the storms and tribulations of life.

Have you ever met a person without hope? Theirs is a dark life. Uncertainty swirls around them; fears and doubts preside within them; ever living in a dark tunnel without any light present. Not so for the Christian! We have light within (the Holy Spirit), and hope without (the imminent return of Christ).

## **THE CALL TO OBEDIENCE**

We were not saved to sit, soak, and sour. We are called to “*shine*” and “*proclaim the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness into his marvellous light*”.<sup>3</sup> Believers must not conform to their worldly environment, but illuminate it with God’s precious gospel.

<sup>1</sup> 2 Corinthians 10:5

<sup>2</sup> Romans 12:2

<sup>3</sup> 1 Peter 2:9

In verse 14, Peter reminds his recipients that they are children of God, and as such, must be obedient to Him by not fashioning themselves to their former sinful life. Christians are changed people and must live according to their new identity in Christ.

### **SUMMARY**

This portion of Scripture (1 Peter 1:13-21) is concerned with the believer's sanctification. Holiness begins in the mind and is then evidenced in the life. If you would follow Christ you must operate with His mind (1 Corinthians 2:16; Philippians 2:5-8), and dispense with all thoughts and ideas that stand in opposition to Him.

### **REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS**

1. What are the six "defences" of the mind listed in Philippians 4:8? Write them down and try to define each of them.

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2. The words "heart" and "mind" are often interchangeable in the Scripture. Read Proverbs 4:23. What does the word "keep" mean in this context? (clue: what is a "keep"?)

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3. According to Colossians 3:1-5, what should our minds be focussed on? List some of the *"things which are above"*.

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4. Psalm 19 is a wonderful chorus of praise to the Lord. Read this Psalm together. Verse 14 is a prayer that every Christian should pray (remember that "heart" and "mind" are synonyms). Why not pray this prayer together now?

### **LIST ANY QUESTIONS FOR THE PASTOR BELOW**

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