



A Life of Faithful Obedience

(Living Here in Reverent Fear)

1 Peter 1:17-25

"Just as human children respect and obey their earthly parents who love them, so those who call God their 'Heavenly Father' are to love and obey him. If we desire his fatherly benefits and blessings, we should seek to honor him in loving obedience, as his children.

Daniel Doriani

"God the Father is also God the Judge. He judges our deeds, and nothing is hidden from him. Jesus said he will reward each person 'according to what they have done (Matt. 16:27). Paul says we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, for things done in the body, whether good or bad (2 Cor. 5:10). This in no way nullifies justification by faith. It illustrates the great principle that genuine faith will show itself in words and deeds."

Daniel Doriani

"Peter says we are to conduct ourselves throughout our stay on earth in 'fear.' Not the servile fear that the prisoner has for his torturer, but the filial fear that a child has for his parents, whom he lovingly respects. This is the fear of offending, disappointing, or misrepresenting, a fear born in reverence and with a heart of adoration."

R.C. Sproul

"Peter says 'we have purified our souls by obedience to the truth.'

What a strange thing to hear Peter say! Would you ever say to someone who is contemplating the Christian gospel, 'We purify our souls by obeying the truth?' Probably not, as it is potentially confusing and sounds like salvation by our own doing. Yet, Peter does in fact say to these Christians that they have 'purified their souls by their obedience to the truth.' Is Peter here mistaken? Is he contradicting the Apostle Paul who teaches that we are justified by faith and not by our obedience? Rest assured, there is no contradiction here between Peter and Paul, or between Peter and the rest of the teaching of scripture. In fact, Paul himself, the champion of 'justification by faith alone,' says the same thing as Peter. In Romans 1:5 he says, '...we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith...'. You see, faith produces obedience. Obedience follows faith. True, saving faith 'works.' Faith and obedience are not entirely different things. Faith itself IS an act of obedience."

Robert S. Rayburn

I. Peter's View of GOD (vs. 17)

- A. God as *Father*
- B. God as *Judge*

II. Peter's View of CHRIST (vs. 18-21)

- A. The Son
- B. The Redeemer (*chosen, perfect, sacrificial lamb, revealed to us*)

III. Peter's View of the CHRISTIAN LIFE (vs. 22-25)

- A. As *Strangers in a Strange Land*
- B. In *Reverent Fear* (acknowledgment) Q- Sproul
- C. Redeemed from *Ignorance* of the past and *Emptiness* of religious ceremony
- D. Obedience of *Faith* (proved by sincere/earnest love of others from a pure heart)

1 Peter 1:17-25

17 Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. 18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. 21 Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. 22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. 23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For,

*"All people are like grass,
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;
the grass withers and the flowers fall,
25 but the word of the Lord endures forever."*

And this is the word that was preached to you.