

Summary

In this sermon, Pastor Jesse explores 1 Peter 1:13-21, focusing on the call for Christians to be holy as God is holy. He explains that holiness isn't about achieving perfection but living distinctly from the world. The sermon emphasizes that holy living begins with setting our minds fully on the hope and grace of Jesus Christ—both what He has already done and what He will do in the future. Just as preparing for a baby requires making room and changes in one's home, Christians must clear their minds of worldly things to make space for Christ's teachings. The pastor highlights that our salvation was purchased at an immeasurable price—the blood of Christ—who was chosen before the creation of the world for our sake.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss Your call to holiness, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to Your truth. Help us to set our thoughts on heavenly things rather than earthly concerns. May this discussion deepen our understanding of what it means to be set apart for You. Guide our conversation and reveal to each person here exactly what You want them to learn today. We surrender our time together to You, asking that Your Holy Spirit would be our teacher. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one item you've purchased that was expensive but absolutely worth every penny? Why was it worth it to you?

Key Verses

1. 1 Peter 1:13
2. 1 Peter 1:15-16
3. 1 Peter 1:18-19
4. 1 Peter 1:20-21

Questions

1. The sermon describes holiness not as perfection but as distinction. How does this change your understanding of God's call to 'be holy as I am holy'?
2. What does it mean to 'set your mind fully on the hope and grace brought to us in Jesus Christ'? What practical steps can we take to do this?
3. The pastor used the analogy of preparing a nursery for a baby to illustrate making room in our lives for Christ. What things might you need to 'clear out' to make more room for Jesus in your life?
4. How does understanding that you were 'bought with an immeasurably valuable price' affect how you view your daily choices and priorities?
5. The sermon mentions that 'fearing the Lord' doesn't mean being terrified of God. How would you explain the concept of 'reverent fear' to someone new to faith?

6. What are some specific ways the things we 'set our gaze upon' affect our spiritual lives? How can we be more intentional about what we focus on?
7. The pastor said, 'When our mind is heavenly, then our lives cannot help but be holy and our hope will remain unwavering.' Have you experienced this connection between your thought life and your actions?
8. How does knowing that God chose Jesus as our Savior 'before the creation of the world' impact your understanding of God's love for you personally?

Life Application

This week, commit to a daily practice of 'resetting your focus on Jesus' whenever you feel your mind being pulled toward anxiety, worldly concerns, or negative thoughts. Choose a specific verse from 1 Peter that resonated with you today and memorize it. Each time you notice your thoughts drifting away from heavenly things, recite this verse and intentionally redirect your mind to Christ. At the end of each day, take a few minutes to reflect on how this practice affected your actions, attitudes, and sense of peace throughout the day.

Key Takeaways

1. Holiness isn't about achieving perfection but living distinctly from the world as God is distinct from false gods.
2. Setting our minds on heavenly things—both the grace we've already received and the hope still to come—is the foundation for holy living.
3. Our salvation was purchased at an immeasurable price—the blood of Christ—which should motivate us to care deeply about our spiritual lives.
4. God chose Jesus as our Savior before the creation of the world, demonstrating His sovereign love and care for us before we ever existed.
5. We must be intentional about what we set our gaze upon, as what we feed our minds will flow through and be reflected in our lives.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the immeasurable price You paid to redeem us. We are humbled by the truth that before the foundation of the world, You chose to be our perfect Lamb. Help us to live in light of this amazing grace. May we be intentional about setting our minds on heavenly things rather than earthly distractions. Give us the courage to live distinctly in this world, reflecting Your holiness in our daily choices. When our focus drifts, gently remind us of our true home and the hope we have in You. Transform our minds so that our lives cannot help but be holy. We pray this in Your precious name, amen.