

Let Us Pursue Holiness in 2021
(1 Peter 1:13-16)

Introduction:

1. In these verses we are given some instructions that are designed to help us be prepared for the Lord's return.
 - a. According to vs.13, we are to:
 - 1) gird up the loins of our minds
 - 2) be sober
 - 3) hope for the blessing that will be given when the Lord returns.
 - b. We learn from vs.14 that we are to avoid our former lives.
 - c. Vs.15&16 teach us to "be holy" [separated from sin, consecrated to God].
2. Peter explained why we must pursue holiness -- because God is holy.
3. Peter also explained how far we are to go in pursuing holiness -- "*in all manner of conversation.*"
4. Based on these instructions, a worthwhile goal for us to adopt is: "let us pursue holiness in 2021."
5. To help us in accomplishing this goal we are studying a number of passages that teach us about "holiness."
6. We first need to point out that . . .

Discussion:

I. GOD IS HOLY

- A. To help us appreciate God's holiness, let us consider 2 visions recorded in:
 1. Isaiah 6:1-3
 2. Revelation 4:1-11.
- B. As we reflect upon God's holiness, we need to keep in mind that:
 1. His Son is holy (Hebrews 7:26)
 2. His Word is holy (2 Timothy 3:15)
 3. His church is to be holy (Ephesians 5:25-27).
- C. The fact that the church is to be holy brings us to our next point.

II. GOD'S PEOPLE ARE TO BE HOLY

- A. The point that God's people are to be holy is also made in Ephesians 1:3-4.
- B. We are to pursue holiness "*in all manner of conversation.*"
 1. In our behavior we are to strive to be holy.
 2. To illustrate, notice how this admonition was given to the Israelites:
 - a. concerning their diet restrictions (Leviticus 11:44)
 - b. concerning their laws of morality (Leviticus 19:2).
- C. The pursuit of holiness is to affect:
 1. the sacrifices we offer to God (Romans 12:1)
 2. the things we put on (Colossians 3:12-14)
 3. our dealings with other people (Hebrews 12:14)
 4. our readiness for the Lord's return (2 Peter 3:11-14).

Conclusion:

1. We learn from 1 Peter 1:22-23 that God makes us holy when we are born again.
2. After we are born again we are to pursue holiness so we may be:
 - a. "a holy priesthood" (1 Peter 2:5)
 - b. "a holy nation" (1 Peter 2:9).