

# Simon Says – A Study in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter

## 1 Peter 1:13 Application Steps

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### Intro:

- Peter is writing to people who are facing difficulties.
- His encouragement is based upon the plan of God ending in salvation, heaven and reward.
- He tell us that we have been born into a living hope – even though for a while we may have to face hardships with the end result in proving our faith to be genuine.
- This plan has been put into place since the beginning of time and has been continuing to be relieved through the passing on time.
- Now the present application of this reality is as follows;

### 1 Peter 1:13 (NIV)

**Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.**

### Prepare your mind

- Therefore – (now knowing all things . . . ) Prepare your minds for action
- Christianity is an action oriented religion
  - We should not be passive receivers but active doers
  - Knowledge (or anything) is useless without application
  - Christianity requires involvement, hard work, movement, exertion, and activity
  - In order to do the action, you first must be prepared, and the most important thing to prepare is your mind, or the way you think
- So then, how do we “prepare our mind for action”?
  - Greek in this sentence literally reads “Gird up the loins of your mind” . . . this phrase is completely lost on us “modern” people
  - In the ancient world both men and women wore long garments. The robes were needed to be tied up around the waist to clear the knees for doing hard work, fighting or walking quickly and running.
  - They knew about this and the first time God commanded this was at the Passover . . . be ready to go when I tell you to move
  - In coming to church today, it took physical preparation . . . you did not just roll out of bed and into your car . . . it took some time to get ready . . .
    - And it was with intentionality . . . .
  - It is the same way with our thought life – we have to prepare our mind for action
    - Our thoughts are like a robe – that some of them restrict our movement . . .
    - That is why it is so important to “renew our mind” . . . this is how we are transformed
    - I can’t do that . . .
    - Someone has to think about me . . .
    - I am not the right person . . .
    - What would other think . . .
    - Not my problem . . .
    - What can I do . . .
    - So when the Lord calls we can’t move fast and are not ready . . . our robes are too long
  - Make sure you think in a way that your are prepared for action - Lord here I am, send me

## Control your self

- Be self-controlled, literally the Greek here is “be sober”
- We know what being drunk does to you
  - Unthinking, uninhibited, unsteady, unable, undone, uncontrolled, unruly . . . . under the influence
- This has to do in the context of our thinking
  - Be alert, be sensitive, be aware, be dialed in . . . to the voice of the Lord and the needs of others
  - Our minds can be “drunk” on all kinds of thinking . . .
    - Obsessing over celebrities, or sports, or thinks at work or relationships or video games, or movies or music or pornography or our vacation or . . . what makes your mind “drunk” . . . stay away from it.
    - Force yourself to think about something else – you can truly only focus on one thing at a time – stay away from things that will trigger those thoughts . . .
- Have sound judgment – live sober – be sober – take your thoughts captive

## Set your hope

- **Set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.**
- Think about when Jesus Christ will be reviled, the grace we will be given so fully hope in that day of deliverance
- Live everyday thinking about the end – the thing that supersedes all things, the day that governs all days. Think about your life from the vantage point of eternity.
- Hope always gets us through what we are going through today
  - We work . . . . to get a pay check
  - We going to school . . . . so we will get a diplomat
  - We travel . . . . with the hope to see . . .
  - We move . . . with the hope of a new future
  - We live . . . for an eternal reward
  - Hope of deliverance . . .
    - Holocaust . . . unbroken
  - Hope gives us the ability to continue and to do so . . . because we have the expectation of what is to come . . . faith hope and love – they remain at the greatest is love – love based in faith and transferred by hope . . . .
- Good way to bring a refocus – at funerals and in a cemeteries . . .

**Eccl 7:2-4 Better to spend your time at funerals than at parties. After all, everyone dies—so the living should take this to heart. 3 Sorrow is better than laughter, for sadness has a refining influence on us. 4 A wise person thinks a lot about death, while a fool thinks only about having a good time.**

## Conclusion

- What are your thinking about? Do battle in your mind . . . prepare yourself for action
- Think about what matters in light of eternity and then do the things that line up with those thoughts
- You gird up your mind and control your life because of the Hope of what is yet to come.