

1 Peter 1:13-16

¹³ Therefore prepare your minds for action. Be sober-minded. Set your hope fully on the grace to be given you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the passions of your former ignorance. ¹⁵ But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do, ¹⁶ for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

Berean Study Bible

- ¹³ Therefore, thoroughly prepare your minds for action.
Be sober.
Lock your anticipation completely
on the grace to be given you
at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- ¹⁴ As obedient children,
do not conform to the passions of your former ignorance.
- ¹⁵ But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do,
- ¹⁶ for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

My own translation

1

An answer for every occasion. 1 Peter 1:13-16

Ready for today. 13a "prepare your minds for action"
Revelation in the future. 13b "revelation of Jesus Christ"
Remember the past. 14 "your former ignorance"
Remedy for all. 15-16 "Be holy, because I am holy"

2

Ready. Set. Go! 1 Peter 1:13-16

Ready. 13

Have a brave heart. 13a "thoroughly prepare"
Have a clear mind. 13a "prepare your minds"
Have a fixed goal. 13c "revelation of Jesus Christ"

Set. 14

Be set in the right direction. 14 "as obedient children"
Avoid the wrong direction. 14 "your former ignorance"

Go. 15-16

Actions with enthusiasm. 15 "be holy in all you do"

Actions with intelligence. 16 “because I am holy”

3

Ready. Set. Go! 1 Peter 1:13-16

Ready your mind. 1:13

Have a prepared mind. 13a “prepare your minds”

Have a purified mind. 13b “be sober”

Set your hope. 1:13

Expect grace to be given. 13c “grace to be given you”

Expect the end to come. 13c “revelation of Jesus Christ”

Obey your Father. 1:14

Fix your new desires. 14a “do not conform”

Fix your new direction. 14b “former ignorance”

Practice your principles. 1:15-16

Practice holy actions. 15 “be holy in all you do”

Practice holy attributes. 16 “because I am holy”

4 – [Men’s devotion](#)

Man up! 1 Peter 1:13-16

Get your head right. 13a “prepare your minds”

Get your body right. 13b “be sober”

Get your vision right. 13c “Lock your anticipation”

Get your relationships right. 14 “As obedient children”

Get your heart right. 15 “be holy in all you do”

5

Double vision. 1 Peter 1:13-16

Take the long-term view. 1:13

Prepare your mind. 13a “prepare your minds”

Prepare your body. 13b “Be sober”

Prepare your attitude. 13c “anticipation”

Because grace will be given. 13d “grace to be given”

Because the Lord will be revealed. 13e “revelation of Jesus”

Take the short-term view. 1:14-16

Prepare your actions. 14a “As obedient children”

Prepare your direction. 14b “do not conform”
Prepare your desires. 14c “the passions”
Because God is holy. 15 “He who called you is holy”
Because I am God’s. 15-16 “be holy in all you do”

6

Get ready for this! 1 Peter 1:13-16

Be prepared. 1:13
Being prepared requires a plan. 13a “prepare your minds”
Being prepared requires preparation. 13a “thoroughly prepare”
Be obedient. 1:14
Move into new obedience. 14a “As obedient children”
Move from old disobedience. 14b “do not conform...”
Be holy. 1:15-16
Every choice is decided by holiness. 15 “be holy in all you do”
Every choice is decided by godliness. 16 “because I am holy”

7

Are you smart enough to learn? 1 Peter 1:13-16

Learning lessons from each day. 1:13a
Give yourself the best mind possible. 13a “prepare your minds”
Give yourself the best body possible. 13a “Be sober”
Learning lessons from the future. 1:13b
You will be given the best, personally. 13b “grace to be given you”
You will be given the best, cosmically. 13b “revelation of Jesus Christ”
Learning lessons from my past. 1:14
Learn, early, to be mature. 14a “As obedient children”
Learn, early, to leave the past. 14b “your former ignorance”
Learning lessons from eternity. 1:15-16
Be the very best you can be. 15 “be holy in all you do”
Be the very best, like the very best. 16 “because I am holy”

8

Prepare your preparation. 1 Peter 1:13-16

Be prepared for living today. 1:13a

Prepare your thinking. 13a "prepare your minds"

Prepare your actions. 13b "for action. Be sober"

Be prepared for living forever. 1:13b

Live in hope. 13b "set your hope / Lock your anticipation"

Live in grace. 13b "the grace to be given"

Be prepared for living better. 1:14

Live in faith / trust. 14a "obedient children"

Live in intelligence. 14b "not... your former ignorance"

Be prepared for living best. 1:15-16

Live in dedication. 15 "in all you do"

Live in discipleship. 16 "because I am holy"

9

How to be holy, without being holier than thou. 1 Peter 1:13-16

My positional sanctification. 15a "He who called you is holy"

This is a legal declaration signed in blood.

Calvary enacts eternity.

My progressive sanctification. 15b "so be holy"

This is a relational position signed in love.

Calvary enacted in my heart.

My personal sanctification. 13a "thoroughly prepare your minds for action"

This is a private commitment signed

Calvary enacted in my will.

My public sanctification. 15b "be holy in all you do"

This is an outward expression signed in humility.

Calvary enacted in my actions.

10

A better way to live. 1 Peter 1:13-16

Proper preparation. 1:13

A mind with direction. Romans 12:2. Philippians 2:5-

An attitude of determination. Galatians 5:22, 23

A heart with expectation. 2 Corinthians 5:10. Matthew 25:19. 1 Corinthians 3:14

Proper practice. 1:14

Application of knowledge

Avoidance with knowledge
Accuracy through knowledge

Proper perspective. 1:15-16

God's character calls me to holiness
God's life commits me to holiness. Ephesians 1:4
God's Word commands me to holiness

11

So what? This is what! 1 Peter 1:12b-16

Because the angels are watching how you live your salvation, v10-12

Angels want to know how you prepare to meet them. 1:12b-13

Angels are interested in your mind. 13a "prepare your minds"
Angels are interested in your body. 13b "Be sober"
Angels are interested in your attitude. 13c "your anticipation"

Angels want to know how you understand yourself. 1:14-16

Angels are interested in who you are becoming. 14a "obedient children"
Angels are interested in what you are leaving. 14b "your former ignorance"
Angels are interested in how you do relationships. 15-16 "be holy"

12

Singing in harmony with Heaven. 1 Peter 1:15-16

"Holy. Holy. Holy" is the theme song of Heaven. Isaiah 6:3, Revelation 4:8.

We are to live in holy relationships. 15a "He who called you is holy"

My relationship to God is to be Heavenly.
My relationship to people is to be Heavenly.

We are to live in holy actions. 15b "holy in all you do"

My work is to be Heavenly activities.
My activities are to all be Heavenly.

We are to live in holy attitudes. 16a "Be holy"

My direction is to be Heavenward.
My decisions are to be Heavenly.

We are to live in holy discipline. 16b "because I am holy"

God's own nature indwells me.
God's own nature must infuse me.

Other possible titles

Future-proof your life.
You've got something to look forward to.
How to sing in tune with the angels.
Today's to do list, from God.
How to be holy.
Wholly holy.

Commentary

Mind, v13

"Therefore, having girded up the loins of your (pl) **mind** (sgl)..." v13, literal translation.

"mind" 1:13 is διάνοια [Strong's 1271] a noun occurring 12 times in the New Testament, including once in 1 Peter 1:13, and once in 2 Peter 3:1.

It is the word used in the Great Commandment, "Love the Lord your God with all your... **mind**..." Matthew 22:37, Mark 12:30, and Luke 10:27.

διάνοια is a combination word, made up of διά [1223] meaning "thoroughly, from side-to-side," to intensify νοέω [3539] "understand, think, consider, conceive, apprehend, to apply mental effort needed to reach 'bottom-line' conclusions".

Hence, διάνοια means to examine both side of an issue, and to reach balanced conclusions; to utilised full-orbed reasoning, or critical analysis. The philosophers' dialectical thinking that literally reaches "across to the other side" of a matter.

Illustration: An athlete wears running shoes on both feet. A football player wears boots on both feet. A surgeon wears sterile gloves on both hands. A clock with a minute hand is not much use, unless it also has an hour hand.

"Be **sober**" v13, literal translation. Not 'sober-minded', for there is no 'mind' in this word.

"sober" 1:13 is νήφω [Strong's 3525] meaning "to abstain from wine, not intoxicated, calm, vigilant, circumspect". A verb occurring 6 times in the New Testament, including 3 times (50%) in 1 Peter 1:13, 4:7, 5:8. The others are, 1 Thessalonians 5:6, 5:8, 2 Timothy 4:5.

Hence, having presence of mind, clear judgment, enabling someone to be temperate (self-controlled). To have one's wits (faculties) about them, the opposite of which is being irrational. In application: free from the intoxicating influences of sin. For example,

¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to reckless indiscretion. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. ¹⁹ Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and

make music in your hearts to the Lord,²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:18-20

Sobriety and intoxication in Scripture:

And he [Noah] drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent. Genesis 9:21

Come, let us make our father [Lot] drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father. Genesis 19:32-35

If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who does not obey his father and mother and does not listen to them when disciplined, his father and mother are to lay hold of him and bring him to the elders of his city, to the gate of his hometown, and they shall say unto the elders of his city, 'This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard.' Then all the men of his city will stone him to death. You must purge the evil from among you, and all Israel will hear and be afraid. Deuteronomy 21:18-21

You and your sons are not to drink wine or strong drink when you enter the Tent of Meeting, or else you will die; this is a perpetual statute for the generations to come. Leviticus 10:9

Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by them is not wise. Proverbs 20:1

Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat. Proverbs 23:20

Those who linger over wine, those who go to taste mixed drinks. Do not gaze at wine while it is red, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly. In the end it bites like a snake and stings like a viper. Proverbs 23:30-32

Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them! Isaiah 5:11,12

He [John the Baptist] will be great in the sight of the Lord. He shall never take wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb. Luke 1:15

When the day of Pentecost came... both Jews and converts to Judaism; "...we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Astounded and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" But others mocked them and said, "They are drunk on new wine!" Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, lifted up his voice, and addressed the crowd: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen carefully to my words. These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It is only the third hour of the day! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel..." Acts 2:1-16

Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Romans 13:13

But now I am writing you not to associate with anyone who claims to be a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a verbal abuser, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat. 1 Corinthians 5:11

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to reckless indiscretion. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Ephesians 5:18

Therefore, it behooves the overseer to be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not dependent on wine, not violent but gentle, peaceable, and free of the love of money. 1 Timothy 3:2-3

Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued or given to much wine or greedy for money. 1 Timothy 3:8

For the overseer must be blameless, as God's steward; not self-pleasing, not easily angered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for dishonest gain; Titus 1:7

“do not **conform** to the passions of your former ignorance.” v14b

Συσχηματίζω [Strong's 4964], a combination of σύν [4862] meaning “conform to, identified with” and σχηματίζω, meaning “assuming a similar outward form or expression by following the same pattern. Usage: a model from the same mould. Hence, to conform oneself (in one's mind and character) to another's pattern; to fashion oneself according to.

This word occurs only twice in the New Testament. Here, and Romans 12:2, “Do not be **conformed** to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.”

Quotes and illustrations

Preparation

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Psalm 23:5

This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: ‘A voice of one calling in the wilderness, “Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.”’ Matthew 3:3

Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. Matt.25:34

Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. Matthew 25:41

My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. John 14:2-3

As it is written: ‘What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived’ – the things God has prepared for those who love Him. 1 Corinthians 2:9

For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10

Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work. 2 Timothy 2:21

In your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. 1 Peter 3:15

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. Revelation 21:2

By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail. — Benjamin Franklin

I will prepare, and someday my chance will come. — Abraham Lincoln

Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe. — Abraham Lincoln

Another way to be prepared is to think negatively. Yes, I'm a great optimist. but, when trying to make a decision, I often think of the worst-case scenario. I call it 'the eaten by wolves factor.' If I do something, what's the most terrible thing that could happen? Would I be eaten by wolves? One thing that makes it possible to be an optimist, is if you have a contingency plan for when all hell breaks loose. There are a lot of things I don't worry about, because I have a plan in place if they do. — Randy Pausch, *The Last Lecture*

We should live our lives as though Christ was coming this afternoon. — Jimmy Carter

Opportunity does not waste time with those who are unprepared. — Idowu Koyenikan

The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today. — H. Jackson Brown Jr

All things are ready, if our mind be so. — William Shakespeare, *Henry V*

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. — Traditional

He who is best prepared can best serve his moment of inspiration. — Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Unfortunately, there seems to be far more opportunity out there than ability... We should remember that good fortune often happens when opportunity meets with preparation. — Thomas A. Edison

Champions do not become champions when they win the event, but in the hours, weeks, months and years they spend preparing for it. The victorious performance itself is merely the demonstration of their championship character. — Alan Armstrong

Proper preparation prevents poor performance. — Stephen Keague

There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure. — Colin Powell

Men succeed when they realize that their failures are the preparation for their victories. — Ralph Waldo Emerson

What we prepare for is what we shall get. — William Graham Sumner

No astronaut launches to space with their fingers crossed. That's not how we deal with risk. — Chris Hadfield, astronaut

Build your ark before the rain clouds form. — Ian Duncan

Be sober

As part of my training for the ministry, I spent two weeks with the chaplains at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, the teaching hospital adjacent to the University of Sydney. I particularly remember a session with the Drug and Alcohol counsellors. They stated that one third of the patients in the hospital were there as a direct result of alcohol abuse, such as drunk driving and crashing their car. One third of the patients were there because of indirect alcohol abuse, such as cirrhosis of the liver, or stomach cancer. The remaining one third of patients were there because they were unwell from non-alcohol causes.

Music and songs

Songs about the mind. "prepare your minds" 13

Songs about hope. "Set your hope / Lock your anticipation" 13

My hope is built on nothing less... On Christ the solid Rock. H 717

My hope is built. Ot 26

Songs about grace. "the grace to be given you" 13

Amazing grace. H 401

Amazing grace, my chains are gone. 1067

For by grace (Carmichael). Ot 93

Living in the rhythm of grace. Ot 73

Only by grace can we enter. 408

We rejoice in the grace of God.

Songs about obedience. "as obedient children" 14

Down in the valley... Follow, follow, I will follow Jesus. H 636

When we walk with the Lord... trust and obey. H 711

Songs about holiness. "Be holy, because I am holy." 15

Holy. Holy is the Lord... Jesus. Jesus is the Lord. 319

Holy. Holy... Praise Him and lift Him up. (Oliver) 707

Holy. Holy. Holy. Lord God Almighty. H 60

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. H 23

Take time to be holy. H 721

We stand and lift up our hands... Holy is the Lord. Ot 9

Thought starters for personal reflection or group discussion

1. Read Isaiah 65:1-5. What does it look like God wants? What does it look like these people saying to God? Suggest a couple of ways in which we, today, can avoid their problems.

2. Theologians talk about, 'Positional holiness', and 'Progressive holiness'. What do those two terms suggest to you? How do you think those two terms relate to one another?
 3. Look back at 1 Peter 1:13-14. In what ways do those instructions enhance v15-16?
 4. Read 1 Peter 1:15. The first half of this verse explains the reason for what follows. Explain thinking behind that reason.
 5. In that same verse, we are told to be holy in "all" we "do". A lot of what we "do" is not religious, so how can we be holy in "all" we do?
 6. Read the quote by Oswald Chambers. Assuming he might be correct, what would you suggest God do to achieve His goal?
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