

• *Appeal for Godliness*

• *Taking personal responsibility for being holy*

• *Holiness is essential*

1. They must prepare their minds for action

(i) *We are born with fallen minds*

(ii) *Salvation in Jesus brings a renewed mind*

(iii) *We are to love God with our minds*

(iv) *We need reminders*

• *Christians need switched-on Godly minds*

2. They must accept responsibility for themselves

Peter has told his readers of the greatness of their salvation. Now he gets to the main thing that is on his heart: his appeal for godliness. He begins in a fairly **general** manner. From now to 2:12 he is giving his general appeal for godliness, coming at the subject from different angles.

Peter 1:13–21 unfolds as follows. First of all he tells them they are to prepare their minds¹; they are to face the fact that they must control themselves²; they set their hopes on the future³. Then he begins to give them reasons why they **must** be holy. The first is because of the character of God⁴. Then he warns them that although God is their Father, His judgement will be impartial⁵. The blood of Jesus Christ was intended to purify their lives⁶.

Peter says: *‘Therefore prepare your minds; be sober; set your hope fully upon the grace that is coming to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ’*¹.

1. They must prepare their minds for action¹. God has done so much for them; ‘therefore’ they must now be willing to take action for God. There first thing is: ‘fasten your minds’. The man of the ancient world often wore a long flapping robe. If he wanted to spring into action, he had to ‘fasten his loins’. He had to get his flapping robes tied into his waist so that he could move. Peter says: fasten your minds. Get ready to think.

The word for ‘mind’ here (*dianoia*) comes twelve times in the New Testament. A study of these references will let us know certain things about the mind. (i) Like every other aspect of the human personality we are born with fallen minds. The mind is controlled by the heart. The heart is the deepest recess of the human personality. People tend to be proud in ‘the thoughts of their hearts’¹. It is not so much the mind that is wrong; it is the heart! The personality of the human person is gripped with sin. It affects everything about us including the mind. We commit sins of ‘body and mind’². The unsaved have darkened minds³. They are ‘hostile in mind’⁴. (ii) When we come to salvation in Jesus our minds are renewed. For the first time we begin to think straight about the things of God. God promises to put His requirements in our minds⁵. He has given us an understanding, a mind⁶. (iii) We are to love the Lord with our minds⁷. (iv) Our minds must be prepared for the activity of living a godly life. This is Peter’s point in 1 Peter 1:13. Peter can say in 2 Peter 3:1 ‘I am arousing your pure minds by way of reminder’. Having been saved their minds are now ‘pure’. They need reminders.

It is a mistake to think that the Christian has to switch off his mind in order to live a godly life. On the contrary we shall need to do some hard thinking if we are to live godly lives. People who want to sin have to stop themselves from thinking.

2. They must accept responsibility for themselves. Peter says ‘Be sober’. A drunken person is out of control. He cannot think straight, talk straight, or walk straight! But the Christian is to be under the control of the Holy Spirit. He can think straight. He can talk straight. He can walk straight. Peter says: Take control of yourself. You are not drunk. You have the ability by the Holy Spirit to get your life the way it ought to be. Get a hold of yourself and begin to live the way you ought. You can do it! The Holy Spirit is within you. You are weak but the Holy Spirit will

- 1:13a
- 1:13b
- 1:13c
- 1:14-16
- 1:17
- 1:18-21

- 1:13

- 1:13a

- Luke 1:51
- Ephesians 2:3
- Ephesians 4:18
- Colossians 1:21
- Hebrews 8:10; 10:16
- 1 John 5:20
- Matthew 22:37; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27

make you strong. Don't be like a drunken man, out of control, unable to supervise what he is doing.

3. They must expect God to give them a gracious reward when Jesus comes

3. **They must take it for granted that God will give them a gracious reward at the time of the coming of Jesus.** They must set their hopes on the future. 'Set your hope fully upon the grace' – it means God's gracious blessing – 'that is coming to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ'. They will be richly rewarded. Everything they have done for Jesus will come back to them. Jesus Himself will say 'Well done'. Their honour will be visible and will last forever. It will be a gracious reward. They will not deserve it. The reward itself comes from God's graciousness, not from our deservings.

4. They must face the reality of what God is like

• God is holy

• So His people must be holy

4. **They must face the reality of what God is like.** God is holy and they are seeking to be His people. He says, 'As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance...' ¹. They have been transformed into being the obedient children of God. That is what they are. That is what has happened to them. Now they must live out what has happened to them. Before they were ignorant and ruled by sinful desires. Now a change has come into their lives and they no longer need live in the way they used to. He goes on: 'but as He who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct...' ². God is holy. It means He is pure, entirely separate from the wicked ways of fallen men and women. Christians are to be His people. God is far removed from ordinary human sinfulness. Christians also must be far removed from ordinary human sinfulness. They need not be removed from the people, but they must make a break with the commonplace way of living. Peter continues: 'since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy"'. Ancient Israel was called to be different. They were called by a holy God to be a holy people. The Christian is not under the details of the law but this sweeping principle is to be fulfilled by the people of God today.

¹ 1:14

² 1:15



slices.org.uk

Dr Michael Eaton is highly respected internationally as a theologian, author, preacher and teacher. He lives in Kenya where he is one of the leaders of the Chrisco Fellowship. His *Preaching Through The Bible (PTTB)* books are highly popular worldwide. Michael Eaton puts the theological and practical meaning of the Bible in a clear and down-to-earth way so that what is written can be easily understood by the reader.



These specially reformatted chapters "Slices of Bread" produced by Sovereign World Trust are available in three categories as set out below

Slices for the Nations	Slices for Sponsors	Slices for Everyone / Slice of the Week
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For pastors, libraries and colleges in those parts of the world where resources are scarce and unaffordable In the fullness of time the whole series will be made available free of charge Weekly emailings of 3 - 4 Slices or available to download from the <i>Slices</i> web site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For those in more prosperous circumstances who can afford to contribute to the development of this material and its distribution with a small monthly donation The same material as Slices for the Nations Weekly emailings of 3 - 4 Slices or by download from the <i>Slices</i> web site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For those who wish to sample the material or dip into it from time to time, a proportion of the PTTB series is available free of charge Slices for Everyone (as a download) or Slice of the Week (attached to a weekly email) The remainder of the PTTB material is available to Sponsors and those eligible to receive Slices for the Nations

To subscribe please contact: slicesofbread@sovereignworldtrust.org.uk stating which category fits your situation. Further details are at www.slices.org.uk
 Details of the availability of *Preaching Through The Bible* books and how they may be purchased can be found on www.ibtr.org.uk