

Welcome Visitors,

First, THANK YOU! We are excited to know that you are interested in worshipping God. We want you to feel very welcomed here among our group. Our goal is doing God's will. You will find that our teaching and preaching are strictly from the Bible so we encourage you to open a Bible and follow along as the lessons are presented today.

God's word is the complete guide for our life of service and worship. The all-sufficient word of God—the Bible is what we need (John 8:31-32; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). We desire to help one another in doing God's will. If you are interested in learning more please ask one of our members today.

Main Street Church of Christ Newbern, Tennessee

Schedule Of Services:

Lord's Day:	9:45 a.m.	Bible Study (All ages)
	10:20 a.m.	Morning Worship
	6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship
Wednesday:	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study

Our Elders:

Johnie Dodds
Harry Elliott
Austin Willis

Our Deacons:

Danny Carpenter
Wayne Hulme
Tommy Sawyers

Our Preacher: T. Sean Sullivan

The Gospel Plan

HEAR THE GOSPEL MESSAGE Romans 10:11-16

BELIEVE IT !!! Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:6

REPENT—CHANGE Luke 13:3; 2 Peter 3:9

OPENLY CONFESS—JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD
Romans 10:8-10; Acts 8:37

BE BAPTIZED—FOR REMISSION OF YOUR SINS
Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-39; 1 Peter 3:21

LIVE ON FAITHFULLY Hebrews 10:35-39 I Peter 1:6-9

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The Main Street Church of Christ

Messenger

1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

In Hope of Our Resurrection

Introduction:

The Apostle Paul introduces a great hope in Philippians 3:8-15. A hope that is worth whatever the cost to achieve. A hope that he admonishes us all to have. The hope of our own resurrection. Paul speaks of this hope only seen if one comes away from the bondage of sin and “presses” toward the goal—the prize of the upward call. It is this “pressing” that we must understand. Though Paul does, in great length, explain the practicalities of this way of life we are going to look to Peter’s inspired writing. Peter, in his second epistle, call us out with a question in the context of this world being destroyed. He asks, considering the world coming to an end, “What manner of persons ought you to be?” This is something Peter had been instilling upon us from the first chapter of his first epistle. Peter in 1 Peter 1:13-15 declare three things that are necessary for our hope to be sure. Let’s examine those three things in hope of being prepared for our own resurrection one day.

A Christian Is to Be Sober Minded

Our first admonition, “Gird up the loins of your mind, be sober.” Just what is Peter asking us to do? We don’t normally use this term “gird.” When you hear “gird” I want you to think of more common terms “gather” and “tighten.” The term

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"gird" may remind you of those awful contraptions people used to inflict themselves with called girdles. To gird up is to gather and tighten. The readers in the first century and Peter himself knew exactly what "to gird up" meant since they all wore clothing that resembled very long loose night shirts. When they intended to move about during the day they would gather their loose garments at the waist and fasten them with a belt so as to free their legs from tripping on the material. So where is the lesson in this? The parallel would be to gather up our loose thoughts and tighten them so that we might think soberly. Sober is not only associated with the lack of drunkenness. It also is to mean simply, clear thought or focus so gather your mind and focus. This world provides many distractions pull our thoughts in many directions. As the world runs that rat race we are, as Christians, supposed to be different (Romans 12:1-2). In renewing we find a new and better thought. James states, "*Purify your hearts you double-minded*" (James 4:8). We must stay focused on the one and only direction that leads to life (Matthew 7:13-14).

A Christian is to be as an Obedient Child

The second admonition in this passage is to be as obedient children. I have known the rewards of being an obedient child and I am also very familiar with the punishments for disobedience. When I obeyed I heard what my parents were saying and I listened. When I listened I submitted and did what they asked. This is what must be done in order to be an obedient child. The Bible recognizes only two types of children. Disobedient children who are considered fools bringing shame to their parents (Proverbs 10:1b) and obedient who are wise and bring happiness to their parents (Proverbs 10:1a). Peter tells us to be as "obedient children" and he is speaking in regard to our relationship with God our Father. As an obedient child we will heed the instructions of our Father in Heaven. We will willingly submit to His direction. The action of obedience in this verse is perpetual it is a continual process. To say, "*be as obedient children*" does not in itself set a time of obedience. It must, therefore, be understood that our obedience is constantly and continuously expected. The same goes with the previous admonition, "be sober."

A Christian is to be Like Christ

The third admonition in this passage is what Peter uses to sum up what he has been trying to get across in the last couple verses. The answer to our original question, "What is a Christian supposed to be like?" is also summed up in this one statement. "Be...as He who called you" We are to be like Christ. As Christians we are followers of Christ (1 Peter 2:21) therefore our example should be His example (1 Corinthians 11:1). "*He is Holy you also be holy in all conduct*". Our conduct is to be unquestionable. Pure lights shining in the world (Matthew 5:14-16).

Conclusion:

What should a Christian be like? Like Christ, willingly submitting to God the Father, focusing on the one direct His word and will supplies. Paul spoke of sharing in the power of Christ's resurrection and having to press to that goal. We need to be pressing.

Peter delivered his admonitions to encourage us to reach for the grace that will be delivered at the revelation of Jesus Christ—in other words the great reward Heaven.

Peter delivered this admonition to encourage the brethren to reach for the grace that will be delivered at the revelation of Jesus Christ—in other words reach for Heaven. Do you want to go Heaven? Are you willing to submit to God's will, put away the cares of the world and put on the example of Christ? Are you willing to be as you should be?
