

Notes for the Ones Called-Out to Meet

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Becoming Set Apart In How You Live

by Dan Trygg

“Therefore, gird up the loins of your perception. Being sober/clear-minded, completely hope on the grace being brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ As obedient children, not conforming-yourself to the former in-your-ignorance lusts ¹⁵ rather, according to the Holy One calling you also come-to-be holy in all your habitual-conduct; ¹⁶ for it is written, ‘Y’all will be holy, because I am holy’. ¹⁷ And if you call upon the Father, the One impartially-judging according to each one’s work, in reverence habitually-live the time of your sojourning-alongside, ¹⁸ knowing that not with perishable-things, silver or gold, were you redeemed-by-ransom from your vain habitual-conduct inherited from your ancestors, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰ On the one hand, being-foreknown before the foundation of the world, but being-revealed at the end of the times for you ²¹ who through Him are believers in God, the One raising Him from the dead and giving glory to Him, so that your faith and hope to be in God. ²² Your souls, having-been-purified in the obedience of the truth unto a brotherly-love without-hypocrisy, out from a clean heart love one another fervently (‘stretched-out-ed-ly’), ²³ having-been-born-from-above -- not of perishable seed but of imperishable -- through the living and abiding word of God. ²⁴ For all flesh is like grass, and all its glory like a flower of the grass. The grass withers, and the flower drops off, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord abides forever. And this is the word that was preached to you.”

1 Peter 1:13-25

Peter had referred to the believers as exiles, resident-aliens, ones-from-another-country-being-alongside-of the ones here, ...the “earthers”, the ones not knowing Jesus. God had chosen to scatter His people among the unbelievers so that they could reveal Jesus to them. **We are ones having-been-born-from-above to obtain an inheritance that is uncorruptible, unsullied and unfading, kept safe in heaven until the end time.** We, in turn, are guarded by God’s power until the fulness of our salvation may be revealed. **Right now, however, we may have to endure various trials or tests of our faith,** so that the proven character of our faith might be found to result in praise, glory, and honor in the revelation of Jesus Christ. **We can endure these difficulties as we focus on and rejoice in the promised and anticipated inheritance set aside for us, ...and as we see ourselves being purified and deepened even through these tests.** We rejoice in Jesus, because we are seeing the end goal of our salvation becoming established before our very eyes, the metamorphosis of our very souls.

Consequently, Peter tells us to get ready, ...get our minds prepared for a walk of challenge and transformation. Peter used a familiar word picture for preparedness, ...”girding up the loins”. This referred to pulling up your robe and tucking it into your belt, so you could move without restriction. In this context, it is our minds that must be prepared. Actually, when we use the word “mind”, we tend to think of our “thinker”, ...and we mentally prepare ourselves to learn information, or answer hard questions. **The word Peter chose, however, is not the word for our “thinking” ability, ...it is referring to our “perceiver”, that ability we have to recognize and interpret things accurately. This is an entirely different set of skills.** For example, a person may be intellectually brilliant, ...as far as learning information and carrying on theoretical conversation..., but have no “street smarts” at all. Thus, he may be an “easy mark” for unscrupulous or ruthless people who would come to do him harm. He would not perceive the setup, until it is too late, ...while another person with “street smarts” would recognize a setup, and have the wherewithal to avoid danger, or take effective countermeasures. Or, our intellectual “thinker” may be clueless about mechanical things, where someone else has an innate or developed capacity to assess a mechanical problem, and know how to address it, ...maybe even creatively. **Peter is not telling us to focus on learning information, ...he is telling us to heighten our awareness and focus our perceptiveness to accurately recognize and discern the spiritual reality.** The next word is “being sober” or “clear-minded”. Both of these ideas are to heighten the focus of the main phrase, “hope completely upon the grace being carried to you in the revelation of Jesus Christ. We need to be sharp and clear-headed and maturely focused. The word for “completely” literally means “unto the end”. We need to keep the end in view, ...we need to view things from the perspective of the ultimate end purpose and goal of what life is all about..., especially in light of the call and inheritance of God on our behalf.

This is a lot of setup to get to the main point, ...which is “as children of hearing-under-obedience not conforming yourselves to the lusts or strong-desires of your former ignorance, rather, according to the Holy One calling you, come to be holy yourselves in all your habitual conduct.”

This is not a new idea. This is an expectation of God for His people from ancient times. Yahweh had called the nation of Israel to be a holy nation, ...a nation set apart to Him (Ex. 19:6), and three times in Leviticus God tells the people that they are to be holy because He is holy (11:44,45; 19:2). In fact, it is stated as a future truth, “You will be holy, for I am holy.” This is, and always has been, God’s intent, ...to call out a people who are not only set apart from other nations, but who actually look and act differently than they do, ...a people who would exemplify and

model the character, heart and wisdom of God in how they live. **Note here that the verb is “become”.** The verb tense is momentary, “come-to-be (at a point in time)” or “become”. **The emphasis is to make a choice, ...in the moment for that moment..., to *become* “holy-ones”.**

What is “holiness”? What does it mean to be “holy ones”? We tend to think in terms of behavior. We often think in terms of religious behavior, or of “being dedicated to God”. But, **in what way is God Himself holy?** He is not “dedicated to” someone else. **He is holy in the sense that He is “other”, ...He is *not* what we typically experience in this fallen world of corruption or evil.** He is as the inheritance was earlier described by Peter, *...uncorruptible, unsullied in any way, and unfading. It is His nature to be that way, ...it is who He is.* **He is calling us to become different, “other” than what we once were. We are to become like He is.** The place where this “otherness” is seen or revealed to those “earthers” we have been dwelling-alongside is in the outworking of our lives, in our habitual behavior. BUT, the source of our holiness, our “otherness”, does *not* lie in just our self-will, or in rule-keeping. The basis for holiness, ...for “otherness”..., **comes down to what God has done in us, when He birthed-us-from-above.**

This should strike us with AWE and REVERENCE. The word for “fear” can also have those meanings. We are not to be afraid of this holy God who has done this amazing thing *in* and *for* us, even though He is the judge of all the earth, ...but we should be in reverential-awe! **And we should conduct ourselves with this attitude of reverential-awe during this time of our dwelling-alongside these “earthers”, especially when we consider the incredible price God paid to make this possible.** We were not ransomed or released from bondage through a sum of money, but through the precious blood of Christ Himself, ...like a blameless and spotless sacrificial lamb on our behalf. **Note what we were freed from, in this context. We were liberated from, ...delivered from, ...redeemed from the vain, destructive and empty ways of living handed down to us from our ancestors!** No wonder that our “otherness” will be and must be made visible through our habitual-conduct! And no wonder it is *so important* that we embrace a mindset and lifestyle of challenge and transformation! Our habitual-living is where the deliverance of Jesus is to be most boldly and clearly evidenced! **No wonder that this requires *perception*, ...minds prepared to think, discern and perceive what needs to change, and how to live differently.** What is “normal” to us, growing up as “earthers” in this present evil age, as members of corrupt and broken human society, and as part of dysfunctional, twisted family systems, must be recognized, acknowledged and must be set aside in order to make room for an entirely different way to live, ...a way that will reveal the health, soundness, goodness and love of God through Jesus Christ *in our lives!*

Again, this was God’s plan, all along. Jesus as the Lamb that would be slain to free us was forethought and foreknown before the foundation of the world! This agrees with the apostle John’s declaration in Revelation 13:8, that Jesus is “the Lamb having-been-slain from the foundation of the world.” **He was forethought, foreknown and forepurposed to die for us to set us free from sin and vanity, ...even before there was human sin or vanity, ...even before this world was created. He was foreknown in the mind of God before the foundation of the world, but He has been manifest, visibly and physically appearing “upon the end of the times” for us, ...to bring to possibility and fulfillment all that God intends for us to experience and display.** WE are the ones who, by virtue of His work, are now trusting in God, the One raising Jesus from the dead and giving Him glory, with the result that our faith and hope is to be toward God. *He* is our Hope, our Savior and our Deliverer!

Now, in obedience to the truth (hearing and responding) having purified our souls, out from clean hearts fervently (stretched-out-ed-ly) love (*agapaō*) one another unto a brotherly-love without hypocrisy. **THIS is the first sign of inner transformation of the heart! This more-than-human love is clear evidence of God’s Presence at work in our lives. This love is only possible because we are “having-been-born-from-above ones”, ...born not out from seed which is perishable or corruptible, but incorruptible, ...through the living and indwelling word (*logos*) of God!** In this world, all flesh is like grass, that dries up and withers away, ...like the flowers of the field that fall off. But the personal-word (*rhēma*) of the Lord abides and lives unto the age (the age to come, the coming kingdom), and *this* is the personal-word (*rhēma*) proclaimed to us. It was proclaimed to us, ...we believed it and received it, ...it produced new life in us, ...and that new life is at work within us, right now. As James the brother of Jesus wrote, “Desiring, God brought us forth by a word (*logos*) of truth for us to be a certain foretaste of His creation” (Jas. 1:18). **God birthed something new in us, ...other-worldly..., a “new creation” that did not exist before (2 Cor. 5:17), and He has set us here in this world, alongside of those who do not yet know Christ, so that we might give them a taste of Jesus, ...so that they might see the light of Jesus in us (2 Cor. 3:17,18; Eph. 5:8-10), ...or smell the fragrance of Jesus coming from our character (2 Cor. 2:14). Our lives are meant to be the most powerful display of who God is, and what He desires to do in our lives.** Therefore it is *crucial* to have our “perceiver-capacity” alert and tuned in to discern what needs to change in our lives, and how to implement those inworking changes that God has introduced within us through our new birth in Christ. **We are set apart or “become holy” as the “otherness” of God’s life within us transforms the way we live. Then we can accurately express the inner working of God among those He has placed in our lives to reach.**