

The Lord
Deals In
Futures

1st Peter
1:3-4, 13-15

***BRIGHTER
FUTURES***

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- **2nd Corinthians 4:4 NIV**, 4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
 - Satan also blinds the minds of believers when we take our eyes off of the glory of Christ
 - Satan doesn't care what else we place it on as long it is not the glory of Christ
 - So often it is the past – failures, hurts, unmet expectations....
 - Or fears and cares of the future
 - **John 10:10 NIV**, 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

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- **2nd Corinthians 4:4 NIV**, 4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
 - Satan longs to destroy lives
 - Adam and Eve were believers of God walking with Him in the cool of the evening
 - They took their eyes off of the glory of God and put them on something else, something they thought they wanted more
 - The apple represented to them freedom and it ended up stealing their future and saddling them with sin
 - Rebellion toward God always leads to slavery

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- **2nd Corinthians 4:4 NIV**, 4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
 - But even in their crumbling lives God pointed Adam and Eve and us forward – there is one coming that promises to make all things new
 - **Revelation 21:5 NIV**, 5 He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”
 - “*Am making*” – current, in the process of, up ahead, watching for expectantly, waiting for patiently
 - **Psalms 24:7 NIV**, 7 Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

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- **2nd Corinthians 4:4 NIV**, 4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
 - So, the question is how can I keep the glory of God always before me?
 - How can I lift up my head that the King of glory may enter in?
 - How can I keep from being beaten down by my past or by what I am projecting in the future?
 - How can I stay true to Jesus living in this broken world?

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- Living with Jesus Christ for more than three years had provided the Apostle Peter the best possible example of what it looked like to live in holiness by looking ahead amid a hostile world
 - When Jesus looked forward, He saw a cross, death, and humiliation
 - But He also saw His resurrection but more than that, your salvation
 - **Hebrews 12:2 ESV**, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
 - How did Jesus endure the cross?
 - By looking forward to the joy God the Father had set before Him
 - Peter will encourage us today to look forward to the joy God has reserved for you

We begin by identifying and fully grasping what joy is ahead for us

- Peter is not talking about some pie in the sky type of joy
 - He's not talking about just an emotional type of joy
 - He's talking about God lifting us up out of death and placing us into an inheritance than can never perish, spoil, fade type of joy
 - So, it must not be based upon the stock market

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- **1st Peter 1:3-4 NIV**, 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.
 - When a child is born today, they are born into pain, hardship, failure, and ultimately death
 - Pierce Brosnan, “No one can escape life's pain. That's life.”
 - But because of God’s great mercy
 - We as believers have been rebirthed into eternal life and into an eternal inheritance

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- We will follow the path Jesus set before us with His resurrection from the dead
 - **John 14:19 NIV**, 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

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- We are also rebirthed into a glorious inheritance that is reserved for us that can never perish, spoil, or fade
 - **Romans 8:17 TLB**, 17 And since we are his children, we will share his treasures—for all God gives to his Son Jesus is now ours too.
 - We so much want God to fix this life that we fail to gasp His ultimate fix that is coming

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- Have you ever halfway fixed something
 - My grandad would never fix a gate latch properly
 - He used barbed wire tied around the gate and pole
 - He always had the intention of properly fixing it
 - He would complain every time he opened the gate and sometimes would blame me

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- God has promised to fix everything in His creation to be new
 - Just like Jesus, we will endure to the end because God the Father has set joy before us
 - How Randy?

We must be vigilant in keeping our eyes on the glory of the Lord

- Vigilant - being watchful, alert, and aware of potential dangers or spiritual challenges, emphasizing readiness and spiritual preparedness
- We need not only defensive driving but defensive living
- **1st Peter 1:13-16 NIV**, 13 Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. 14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in 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.”

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 - Keep looking ahead and you will find God’s grace is coming
 - Peter said it like this, “Set your *(fully secured)* hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming”
 - Notice first, Peter encourages us by reminding us that Jesus is returning
 - And the truth of our Lord Jesus will be revealed *(made know, uncovered)* to everyone
 - Your current faith will be proven by sight

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- Notice Jesus is coming to God’s children with grace in His arms, “grace to be brought to you”
 - Not judgement, condemnation, harshness, wrath but grace that covers a multitude of sins
 - Keep your head up whatever your circumstance looking expectantly for God’s grace to show up

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- Peter also gives us a warning about living in this sinful world
 - “With minds that are alert and fully sober”
 - Alert and fully sober in Greek – Be alert, Be self-controlled, Free from influences that will cloud your mind and judgement

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- Peter also gives us a warning about living in this sinful world
 - Don't let yourself become complacent or distracted
 - Be alert to the dangers of the world, the flesh, and the Devil
 - Do not be easily distracted or overly concerned by worldly issues in the news knowing God is ultimately in control

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- The disciples were distracted by their own expectation of the Messiah
 - Jesus came to them with grace in His arms on the night of His resurrection, even for Peter

Pay close attention to who or what is molding your life

- **Romans 12:2 NIV**, 2 Do not conform (*molded*) to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
- **1st Peter 1:13-16 NIV**, 13 Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. 14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in 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.”
 - Peter said it like this in Vs. 14, *“Do not conform to the evil desires you had”*
 - **TLB**, “don’t slip back into your old ways”

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- Living the Christian life is hard
 - We must learn to use the tools given to us while at the same time fighting the dragons that long to destroy
 - **Psalm 34:19 ESV**, Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.
 - Peter tells us there are “*evil desires*” within our old nature longing to escape and taint the present

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- Every one of us is being molded or shaped by someone or something
 - What is truth, priorities of life
 - Seeking to dictate how we think God and making decisions about ourselves and the world around us
 - How we respond to the events of life
 - Where we find our hope and strength
 - How we live our lives

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 - We still have our old rebellious nature that still longs to be satisfied
 - We have society and friends pulling us in their direction
 - But we also have the truth of God’s Word and as Christians the Holy Spirit living in us

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 - We must keep moving forward into Christ
 - Walking deeper in fellowship with Him
 - Allowing Jesus to model how to live a godly life in an ungodly world
 - Allowing ourselves to see through His eyes and love through His heart
 - All the while becoming more like Him

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 - **Philippians 3:10-11 NIV**, 10 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

We must always remember who we are

- **Vs. 15-16**, 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.”
 - We look at these words and say, “Impossible!”
 - There is no way I am holy or can ever be holy until Jesus returns and I receive a glorified body and mind
 - The Hebrew and Greek meaning of the word holy is to “set apart”
 - God is holy because He is set apart from all other pretend gods
 - God is also holy because all His acts are set apart for all other gods
 - He is holy because of who He is

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- **Vs. 15-16**, 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.”
 - This Holy Most High God has declared you holy in Christ Jesus and set apart for Him alone
 - The Temple was declared holy not because the materials it was built with were holy, but because it was set apart from all other buildings for the worship of God alone
 - Peter is saying as a born-again child of God, we belong to God and that truth must ever be in the forefront of my mind with everything coming in or going out passing through it
 - It’s not about me but it’s all about Jesus

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- **Vs. 15-16**, 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.”
 - In ancient days there would be trusted servants and slaves
 - They had learned not just the commands of their master
 - They had learned to think and see their world as their master would
 - They could be trusted to go out into the world and make decisions as if the master was doing it

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 - **Genesis 39:6 NIV**, 6 So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph’s care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.
 - We must remember we are set apart for our Master’s good pleasure which ultimately is our good pleasure as well

The Lord Deals In Futures

- Hymn, “Now I Belong To Jesus”, pg. 345

Jesus, my Lord will love me forever,
From Him no pow'r of evil can sever,
He gave His life to ransom my soul;
Now I belong to Him;

Now I belong to Jesus,
Jesus belongs to me,
Not for the years of time alone,
But for eternity.

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