

[Music] [Music] good morning church a reading from 1 Peter chap 1: 13 through chapter 2:3 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 as obedient children do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance but just as he who called you is Holy so be holy in all that you do for it is written be holy because I am Holy since you call on a father who judges each person's work impartially live out your time as

foreigners here fear in reverent fear for you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors but with the precious blood of Christ a lamb without blemish or defect he was chosen before the creation of the world and was and was revealed in these last times for your sake through him you believe in God who raised him from the dead and glorified him and so your Faith and Hope are in God now that you have purified

yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for one another love one another deeply and from the heart for you have been born again not of perishable seed but of imperishable through the living and enduring word of God for all people are like grass and all their Glory is like the flowers of the field the grass withers and the flowers fall but the word of the Lord endures forever and this is the word that was preached for you therefore R yourselves of all malice all deceit hypocrisy envy

and slander of every kind like newborn babies crave spiritual pure pure spiritual milk so that by it you may grow up in your salvation now that you have tasted that the Lord lord is good the word of the Lord thanks Rachel when we become a Christian it's not like turning over a new Leaf it's not like reading the latest self-help bestseller and absorbing it it's not like a new diet plan it's something altogether different Peter describes it this way 1 Peter 1:3 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 when we become a Christian Resurrection Life is injected into US Jesus himself coined this phrase of being being born again or a new birth and so when we talk about Christians being born again we're not just talking about a denomination or a group of people who identify as Born Again Christians and that may mean for them some emotional experience or some doctrinal values no born again is Christianity and every Christian is born

again now it may be that each of us becomes born again in different ways I mean in the sense that for some of us when we came to know Jesus we were born again it was a dramatic like lifechanging moment that happened and uh Jesus just came into our life for others of us it's been a process maybe over a couple year period where you just began having questions and questions and as you answers and answers suddenly without even realizing it you feel like you've entered the kingdom of God and then for

some of us we've been Christians for as long as we can remember 3 four years old we've always believed in Jesus now we've come to know him more and more as we've grown up but we've always known you so the birth the new birth happens in many many different ways but every New Birth has this in common into US comes stupendous power stupendous power power that uh can change and transform our life in fact when Paul describes the idea of New Birth in Titus 3 and: 5 he describes it this way God saved us not

because of righteous things we had done but because of his Mercy he saved us through the washing of rebirth and renew by the holy spirit that word rebirth there in the Greek it's palingenesia a new beginning where did Paul get that word palingenesia here's where Matthew 19 the apostles heard heard Jesus preach this Jesus said to them truly I tell you at the renewal there it is the palingenesia of all things when the son of man sits on his glorious Throne you who have followed me will also sit on 12

Thrones judging the 12 tribes of Israel another words when we receive the new birth and we become Christians into US comes this power the same power that Jesus will use to renew all things when he comes back and at the end of time that power is in us now is there a wow in them room that power is in us now do you know what that means we are putting up with them things in our lives we should not be putting up with we need to raise the bar of our Ambitions and our desires to change and our growth because there's power in

us that can transform our hearts and our minds it it's a new person we can walk out of here this morning again a new spouse a new parent a new employee that power working in us again uh one of my favorite stories of New Birth change comes from the fifth century Augustine and Augustine was uh lived a very promiscuous young adulthood and then he met Jesus and he had the new birth and he got saved and everything changed for him and so this one particular day a few weeks after he had the new birth he was walking down a

street where one of his former Mistresses lived and she saw him she came running out thinking you know it's going to be like old times and she kind of comes up to him and greets him and he nods at her and and keeps walking I mean that that's that's not what he what he wanted to do anymore and so she thought that he didn't hear him and so she says to Augustine Augustine it's me and Augustine says to her but it's not me in other words that does not define me anymore I am a new person this idea of New Birth what was woven

through all of First Peter is this idea that drives what we're going to talk about today and that's this that because every Christian has received the new birth there is power in us to live holy lives as you've heard read from the text Rachel read into us today is this call to be holy for the Lord God is Holy Peter says be

holy in all you do and as we live these holy lives it's then that the world seizes as Exiles and to some the way we live as holy is going to be offensive to some and to others we

talked about this last week it's going to be a beautiful attractive thing but all of us because of the new birth power within us we have the call and capability to live holy lives and so today as we talk about Clarity and chaos and what we're called to do in this world in this time we are called to live holy lives so let's talk about what does it mean to live a holy life secondly how do we live a holy life and lastly why bother why bother with it all could I ask the tech booth just to turn up the lights in the house a little bit

I really don't like preaching the darkness there you go I like to see faces and so and then you won't fall asleep as easily as you normally do with the lights down so thank you um what does it mean to live a holy life Holiness in our culture well let's read the text first I want to read 1 Peter 1:14 to 16 and then we'll unpack it as obedient children do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance but just as he who called you is Holy so be holy in all you do for it is written be holy because I am Holy

Holy in our culture uh is used in one of two ways usually ironically or intensely uh the idea of holy or sinful um it's used to describe for instance chocolate if chocolate's really good it's sinfully good and that's where you'll hear the word or or usually holy when it's used in our culture is kind of an intensifier like I could say Hool and you fill in the blank holy yeah all kinds of words come to mind right right holy moly I actually looked up holy moly just because I was curious where that came from it first

appeared in the Lexicon English lexicon in 1892 and moly is short for Mary or Moses no one's quite sure so there's your free bit of information this morning holy moly now in uh Peter's audience the Greek word for Holy is agas and it literally means something that causes a like is Holy other w l l y holy other a the Hebrew word and as we'll see this is where I think Peter is coming from the Hebrew word for Holy is kadosh and kadosh means to separate or divide to set apart so that uh the ordinary from extraordinary and unclean from the

clean you divide and something is set apart and so we see when we describe God as holy as we've sung this morning holy holy holy it fits it fits God because God is above and beyond us God is Holy other he is when we say God is powerful we don't mean just on the human scale that God's at the top power we mean that God has holy power and thus off the scale when we say God is love we just don't put him at the top of our scale as someone who loves he is Love Is Holy Love which means it's off the scale and

his wisdom holy wisdom is off the scale you see everything we know is in a category we're humans phto is a dog Oak is a tree Earth is a planet Milky Way is a one of a billion galaxies Michael and Gabriel are angels and the Devil is a demon but only God is God we are created all is created God created everything

has a beginning God is the I am everything depends on something for life God is life that cannot go out of existence only God is God and so when we say God is Holy we say indeed and we sing Holy Holy holy holy is the Lord God

Almighty but what does it mean when Peter says okay just as God is Holy you be holy cuz we know we can't be holy like that we can't be holy other it must have another connotation and indeed it does and that's why it's important to see what Peter's doing in those verses 14 to 16 he's actually quoting from The Book of Leviticus now some of you remember when was it the spring Paul that we preach Leviticus and I threatened the worship uh planning team I was going to sing the bumper song from our but I won't uh we had a great

time in Leviticus but you know in Leviticus what you don't see is a lot of holy people in Leviticus you see those calls to Holiness in Exodus with the Ten Commandments in Deuteronomy when they're given again but in Leviticus do you know what you see that's called holy a lot pots pans tables Furniture candlesticks oil robes things that are holy and so in Leviticus it's about all these things that are going to be used to help us have relationship with God but what does it mean like what is a holy table is that something that

You' eat your three meals on and then at the end of the day you read The Ten Commandments and that's suddenly a holy table no a holy table is one that you would take from the ordinary use of three meal meals a day but then you would carry it to the priest in the Tabernacle and the priest in the tabernac would take it into the Tabernacle and set it in a certain place and set on it the showbread and and the Candlestick and all the things that needed for worship but now that table is a holy table why because it has

exclusive use for God let me put it this way what is a holy table it's a table that belongs to God what is a holy person say it with me a person that belongs to God a person who expresses total Devotion to God that is what it means to be holy total devotion every part of our Lives because we belong to God so that leads to the next question how do we do that how do we live lives that are holy and so here we're going to talk about using our minds and engaging our hearts and so I want to go to 1 Peter 1 uh verse 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 is come with our minds holy people let me say it this way Christians who are practicing Holiness are people who think who think the words are interesting I'll start with fully sober that's often a word used from the learning environment it's the idea of research and scholarship think footnotes and attention to sentence structure and uh Thinking Out implications if this is

true then that's true if this is right then this is right it's this idea of being thoughtful by the truth that we know and then seeing how it invades and pervades all of our lives through the various implications uh let me illustrate uh Paul in Ephesians 6 talks about this idea that in our work we need to be fully sober we need to have an understanding he says in Ephesians 6 that we don't actually work for our human boss we we do but the authority is delegated who do we actually work for when go to

work God that God is our boss so we don't work for our Earthly boss solely if we did then all we do is butter up buttercup you know brown nose if if we only work for how it benefits us in the paycheck then we become very competitive and uh you know we don't care what other people are doing as long as I get what I need but Paul says we need to look at work soberly think it through if God's our boss when we go to work that changes everything about our diligence about our conscientiousness about our love and are

willing to be humble are willing to let others or help others I mean all that comes into play and that kind of thinking listen is what makes our work holy we think it through every day on the work in fact I would encourage you driving to work next time okay Lord you're my boss how am I going to work today you'll have some very interesting conversations but that's the idea of of Holiness pervading our lives and then the second word is even more fun alert it's fun because it's actually uh in the original language a citic uh

idiom it literally reads and some of the older translations have it girding up the loins of our minds what in the world girding up the loins well in the ancient world everyone wore a robe a long flowing robe men and women and when you had to run or do physical labor you had to gird up your loins you reached down and you grabbed your robe pulled it up tucked it into your belt bared your legs and you'd run and you'd work and in the same way Paul or Peter here is saying with our minds all the time as we

seek to live holy lives we're always thinking about the future invading the present we're always thinking it's like exit row mentality right how many of you like to sit in the exit row you get all the leg room for sure but you also have some alertness that you have to be responsible for right if something happens you need to know what to pull down what to push at least we we do do this don't we you sit in the extra row uh we think through possibilities and what could happen we're alert well my favorite uh I'll just

throw this in for free also today um this idea of thinking ahead using our minds to be holy this way there um Nick used to use this illustration our founding Pastor back in the day and I just thought I'd bring it back around one more time it was a fictitious manual for the first night of training Peace Corp volunteers so it's fictitious but its purpose was to scare the beebies out of these young kids on their first night in the new country and so one of the pages had this 10 steps to prepare for an

anaconda attack number one if you're attacked by an Anaconda do not run the snake is faster than you are number two now now remember this is fictitious but they don't know this number two lie flat on the ground number three put your arms tight at your sides and your legs tight against one another number four the snake will begin to climb over your body number five do not panic number six the snake will begin to swallow you from feet end number seven step six will take a long time step eight after a while slowly and with

as little movement as possible reach down take your knife and very gently slide it into the snake's mouth then suddenly sever the snake's head number nine be sure your knife is sharp number 10 be sure you have a [Laughter] knife alertness thinking ahead what will happen when all right so I want to illustrate this from scripture as well and it's actually in our text if we go back to 1 Peter 1:3 uh 113 sorry sorry hel fully sober set your Hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming one of

the ways we think ourselves into a holy life is to always have in front of us this moment we think ahead to when Jesus is revealed at his coming this is the gospel right God made the world we broke the world Jesus came sent by the father to rescue the world with his death and Resurrection but that's not the end of the story the end of the story its complete fulfillment is when Jesus comes again and His glory is revealed and there's new heavens and new earth and everything's th comes untrue and all wrong put down and

wred that's the end of the story and Peter says part of thinking framing Our Lives is to always be thinking about what that moment that moment does thinking about that moment change the way we spend our money it should even a hwood director gets it I read once he said if men and women are Immortal we have definitely overpaid for our carpet does it change the way we value relationships and invest does it change the way we spend our time does it change the way we work does it we're always thinking about that

moment made me think of an article I read years ago in Christianity Today by Wendy mova where she was telling the story of her son who was eight at the time coming to know Jesus and he prayed to receive Jesus and then several nights later he the new birth several nights later they read as they tucked him in a passage of scripture and it the passage I don't know what it was but it alluded to Jesus coming back again and so the very next morning here comes Ben down the stairs he's got a Star Wars pajamas on he's

going to sit down with his Cheerios before school and they notice he's carrying his Sesame Street suitcase and his parents Ben what what do you do what's in your suitcase why do you have your suitcase with you and he said well if Jesus comes back today I'm going to be ready what's in your suitcase are you ready does it even cross your mind think think think Christians are thinking people fully sober and alert

we also secondly engage our hearts we engage our hearts and for this we go to verse 14 in the text uh 1 Peter

1:14 as obedient children do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance as obedient children what's interesting if you read the rest of this chapter chapter and even indeed into chapter 2 um this metaphor uh Peter frames our um Holiness in terms of the parent child relationship in in verse 17 of chapter 1 I don't I don't have a slide for it but it talks about the the the evaluation that we'll receive at the end of time but it makes a special note to say it's the father who will doing

it's always framed our Christian Life in terms of father and child as obedient children so you think think about it what gives a child great joy the joy of their parents when a child knows that they can make their grumpy old parents laugh when a child knows that they've done something that their parents are just all over them with encouragement and praise and joy there is nothing better in this world for a kid than to have their parents all all over them in celebration it's just a beautiful moment and I have sit with

hundreds of families through all their funerals and I know that what we remember from those moments is those times our parents were joyful it's that emotion that's in the text as obedient children so the question is what makes obedience have that kind of Joy well thinking about it I remembered a story and actually a sermon I heard once from a a preacher named Haden Robinson who used to be the president of Denver Seminary and it was on second Samuel uh 23 where it's describes David's 33 Mighty Men this is

near the end of the David story he's about to die and they're throwing all these tributes in at the end and one of the tributes was a tribute to David's best bravehearts the most fierce Warriors that he had and within that chapter there's tuck this little story what had happened this was at the beginning of David's rise to become king of Israel he was a fierce Warrior himself and he began to rise and be a threat to the surrounding people and Nations around him one in particular you may have heard of them the Philistines

you heard of the Philistines David and Goliath the Philistines saw David rising to power and they engaged in some actions and what they wanted to do was go after some primary strategic places that they know David had owned one of them was Bethlehem why was Bethlehem important to David anyone remember it's his hometown it's where he grew up and so the Philistines decided they were going to go after with all they've got and capture Bethlehem and they did and they David had to go on the run so they're on the Run Philistines

now and David's Hometown and David just out of the clear blue kind of sigh and says say oh if I could just have a drink of water from The Well of Bethlehem what he's thirsty maybe it's good water even

more if I could just get home again well sitting around him were three of his Warriors and what did they do they strapped on their weapons and they got a water jug and they fought through the Philistine Army and they got to the well at Bethlehem filled up The Jug they fought back through and they brought a jug of water from The Well of

Bethlehem to David and what did David do he held it up and he said I understand you all have risked your lives for this you've given everything to your king but I do not deserve that loyalty and he dumped that water on the ground now we could talk a lot of things about that moment here's the point I would make from it when you are totally devoted to someone their Delight is your mission when you are totally devoted to someone their Delight is your mission David did not give a request he did not put it as a command he simply

sighed oh and they were on their feet and on the move and they were running when someone's Delight to whom we are devoted when we hear that that's what's needed we move that is our mission I wanted to share something else just from that story oh that's what it was so the difference between obedience that's just raw and obedience that's Joy Delight is the difference Delight is the difference so over the years I've had people come to me and you you get into conversations about what it means to live a holy life and uh one particular

occasion someone came and they relatively new Christian so they get all the grace in the world but they asked this question I've heard about this thing following Jesus about tithing tell me about tithing so you go through and you say you know in the Old Testament it was 10% actually it was 14% if you count the three yearly festivals but who's counting um you you all your income the minimum the goal to start is 10% % of your income given to the church given to World missions given to the poor Give It Away

generosity and you explain that in that in the New Testament like it was 14% in the New Testament generosity is now in the shape of a cross Jesus didn't tithe this Blood he gave it all and so the word in the New Testament is sacrifice and so the question is for you are you sacri is it a sacrifice what you give does it change the way you live all that you talk that through at the very end of it and I thought I did an amazing job he asked me 10% off your income is that gross or [Laughter] net if you're totally devoted to someone

their Delight I mean how far away is that qu again sounds like I'm being hard on the guy he's just learning but how far away is that question grosser net from just a sigh gets me out running well the question then lastly comes to this how do we get that kind of heart that is so totally devoted that their Joy is our Delight how do we get there and the the answer to that question is what we end most every sermon with here at Waterstone we end by sinking and having our hearts stirred by the total devotion that Jesus



Christ has given to us in other words we become totally devoted to Jesus to the degree that we see and reflect and are Abled by how he has been totally devoted to us how devoted 1 Peter 1:18 for you know that it was not was perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors but with the precious blood of Christ a lamb without blemish or defect the precious blood of Christ we never get over the gospel we never get over to the

demonstration of God's love given by the father sending his son and by the death of his son we never get over it it stirs us again and again and again and so to stir us up again I want us to do a little thought experiment as we close over here let's go this side your your right my left over here I want you to think of the person you love most in the world at this moment could be your spouse could be a friend could be a kid just think of that person that you love like your one and only you're one of a kind got it got a

person I know it's hard to do one but for this go with me for this thought experiment over here I want you to think of a person that you hate the most could be your SP no no just someone who's hurt you betrayed you could be someone you don't know like a celebrity or a politician but when you think of them it's like chewing sand you got it some you're one and only and a person that's your enemy well let's say this person your enemy gets sick let's say they their kidneys begin to fail and stop working

working are you willing to give money to help them pay for their surgery are are you willing to donate one of your kidneys to your enemy to help them save their lives oh are you willing to send your one and only at risk of life to give a kidney to save your enemy for God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son not at risk of life cost of Life while we were yet sinners Christ died for us you may have come in this morning you're in the thick of it you are suffering you've been abused you you've

lost what's most dear to you you've lost your health whatever it is I want you to hear that those circumstances hard as they are do not mean that God does not love you the proof of Love is the cross and that he's given you his son so that whatever happens to you even the worst you get to go home and even in the now hard as it is he is with you his spirit in you helping you cry out ABA father I want to pray a prayer to help us just sit in this for one more moment this love it's a Puritan prayer and it's

called precious blood so let us pray together let us have our mind minds and gaze our hearts stirred why bother with Holiness this is why blessed Lord Jesus before thy cross I kneel and see the heinousness of my sin my iniquity that caused thee to be made a curse the evil that excites the severity of divine Wrath show me the enormity of my guilt by the crown of thorns the pierced hands and feet the bruised body the dying cries thy blood is the blood of Incarnate God its worth infinite its value beyond all

thought sinner that I am why why should the sun give me light the Air Supply breath the Earth bear my tread its fruits nourish me its creatures subserve my ends yet thy compassions yearn over me thy heart hastens to my rescue thy love endured my curse thy mercy bore my stripes let me walk humbly in the lowest depths of humiliation bathed in thy blood tender of conscience triumphing gloriously as an heir of Salvation amen