Called to Be Holy

Key Verses: "As he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." —I Peter 1:15,16

Selected Scripture: I Peter 1:13-21

In this lesson, Apostle Peter reminds Christians to "gird up the loins of your mind." (I Pet. 1:13) The idea in this phrase is to prepare for action. The apostle says we must also "be sober," which denotes the ability to take a serious look at life. This describes a condition free from every form of mental and spiritual loss of self-control; it is an attitude of self-discipline that avoids being extreme in one direction or another.

If we prove to be obedient followers of Christ, we will receive the needed experiences that will make us "meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light." (Col. 1:12) Thus we shall be transformed by the renewing of our minds, that we "may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." In other words, we will fashion ourselves according to the divine instructions.—Rom. 12:2

Our Key Verses indicate absolute holiness is the standard that we should fully endorse. This is despite the fact that because of human frailties, we cannot attain it in the flesh. Nevertheless, we are to copy the divine pattern as much as possible, especially as it pertains to our will and minds.

"If ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass

the time of your sojourning here in [reverential] fear: Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you." (I Pet. 1:17-20) These words of our lesson provide a humble reminder that our redemption has been made possible only through the sacrifice of Christ.

One evidence we have passed from death unto life is that we love the brethren. As Christ laid down his life for us, we should lay down our lives for one another. (I John 3:14,16) That is, we should do whatever we can to help them make their calling and election sure. In the prayer of our Lord recorded in John 17, his concerns were primarily for the twelve who were to be his special ambassadors in the earth and for those who would hearken unto their teachings after he had ascended to heaven following his resurrection. (vss. 11-20) What a legacy of promises and comfort to assist us that we have received if we would follow in Christ's footsteps. If taken to heart it will result in our being faithful unto death and ultimate participants in his glory.—Rev. 2:10

Our Lord is ever solicitous of our welfare and sanctification. If we heed the instructions relating to his care over us by abiding in him throughout our earthly sojourn, then we may apply unto ourselves the following words: "Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. … Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, … be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever." —Jude 1:21,24,25 ■