

1:13-16 The believer's living hope, based on his new birth, should lead to: (1) practical obedience and (2) growth in holiness. Holy living is motivated by a God-fearing faith that does not presume upon the redemption that was purchased at so great a cost (vv. 18, 19).

1:18, 19 "Conduct" refers to our "manner of life." The term "redeemed" is a word generally used for the purchase of slaves with money. Such corruptible resources, however, did not purchase salvation. The cost of human ransom from the slavery of sin was the honored and precious blood of Christ (cf. Heb. 9:14, note, on the atonement).

1:22 Obedience to the truth produces sincere love for God's people (1:22-25) and a desire for spiritual growth (2:1, 2).

1:24, 25 Quoting Is. 40:6-8, Peter stresses the enduring nature of the word of the Lord. Flesh and all other material things are destined for destruction. In none of these can one afford to place his trust. But what God says is permanent, enduring, and trustworthy.

2:9 As "living stones" (v. 5), believers are placed in a new and significant relationship to Jesus, the "chief cornerstone" (v. 6): (1) They are members of a "chosen generation," i.e., an elect race. (2) Furthermore, all believers are "priests," a word indicative of privilege in access to God but also of ministry to others in Christ's name. This priesthood is a royal priesthood as a result of the relationship of sonship which the believer possesses. (3) As a member of an elect race, the believer is also a part of a "holy nation." (4) The designation "special people" may be rendered more literally, "a people to be around," stressing that God's people are a possession of God Himself. (5) The function of this believing community is to "proclaim the praises" of God. The doctrine of the priesthood of all believers is a significant N.T. revelation. The old dispensation featured a Levitical priesthood, offering sacrifices for the people, interceding with God in their behalf, and on the Day of Atonement entering before God with sacrificial blood for the people. The new dispensation makes each believer a