

1 Peter 1:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

Analysis

Peter transitions from indicative (what God has done) to imperative (how believers should respond). "Wherefore" (dio, διό) connects commands to preceding truths about salvation's magnificence. The first command: "gird up the loins of your mind" (anazōsamenoi tas osphyas tēs dianoias hymōn, ἀναζωσάμενοι τὰς ὀσφύας τῆς διανοίας ὑμῶν) uses imagery from Palestinian culture where men wore long robes that hindered running or working. They would "gird up loins" by tucking robe into belt, freeing legs for action. Peter applies this physically to mentally: prepare your mind for action, remove mental hindrances, focus thoughts intentionally. The second command: "be sober" (nēphontes, νήφοντες) means be self-controlled, mentally alert, free from intoxication (literal or metaphorical)—clear-headed vigilance, not drowsy complacency. The third command: "hope to the end" (teleios elpizate, τελείως ἐλπίζατε) means hope perfectly, completely, fully—not wavering or partial hope but total confident expectation. The object: "for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (epi tēn pheromenēn hymin charin en apokalypsei Iēsou Christou, ἐπὶ τὴν φερομένην ὑμῖν χάριν ἐν ἀποκαλύψει Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ). Grace comes progressively throughout life, but perfectly at Christ's return. "Revelation" (apokalypsei, unveiling) indicates Christ's second coming when He appears publicly in glory.

Historical Context

Peter wrote to believers facing persecution, tempted toward mental and spiritual sluggishness through discouragement. The three commands address this: mental preparation (gird up mind's loins), sustained vigilance (be sober), and confident hope (hope perfectly unto Christ's return). The metaphor of girding loins would resonate powerfully—Israelites girded loins before Exodus departure (Exodus 12:11); Elijah girded loins before running (1 Kings 18:46); workers girded loins for heavy labor. Mental girding means eliminating distractions, focusing on truth, preparing for spiritual warfare and service. Sobriety contrasts with mental intoxication through worldly pursuits, false teaching, or anxiety. Perfect hope means unwavering confident expectation of grace's consummation at Christ's return. In Roman culture dominated by Epicurean "eat, drink, be merry" philosophy or Stoic fatalism, Peter calls Christians to distinctive mindset: disciplined hope anchored in Christ's promised return. Early church's eschatological fervor—vivid expectation of Christ's imminent return—shaped ethics, evangelism, and endurance under persecution.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What specific mental 'hindrances' (worries, distractions, false beliefs) do you need to 'gird up' to focus on Christ and His promises?
2. How would 'hoping perfectly' in grace to be revealed at Christ's return change your daily priorities and responses to trials?

Interlinear Text

Διὸ	ἀναζωσάμενοι	τὰς	ὀσφύας	τῆς	διανοίας	ὑμῶν
Wherefore	gird up	G3588	the loins	G3588	mind	of your
G1352	G328		G3751		G1271	G5216
νήφοντες	τελείως	ἐλπίζατε	ἐπὶ	τὴν	φερομένην	ὑμῖν
be sober	to the end	and hope	for	G3588	that is to be brought	unto you
G3525	G5049	G1679	G1909		G5342	G5213
χάριν	ἐν	ἀποκαλύψει	Ἰησοῦ	Χριστοῦ		
the grace	at	the revelation	of Jesus	Christ		
G5485	G1722	G602	G2424	G5547		

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 5:8 (Parallel theme): Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Luke 12:35 (Parallel theme): Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning;

1 Peter 4:7 (Parallel theme): But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

1 Peter 3:15 (Hope): But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Hebrews 9:28 (References Christ): So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

1 John 3:3 (Hope): And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

2 Timothy 4:8 (Parallel theme): Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Ephesians 6:14 (Parallel theme): Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

1 Corinthians 1:7 (References Jesus): So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Luke 17:30 (Parallel theme): Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

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