

I Believe, Prepared Minds, Pure Hearts

Jim Burgen, Week 3

August 21st, 2022

// Bible References

1 Peter 1:12-22; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 3

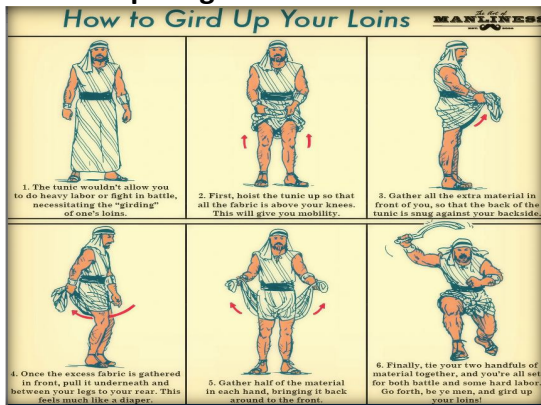
// Other References

stepbible.org; The Wiersbe Bible Study Series: 1 Peter: How to Make the Best of Times Out of Your Worst of Times

// Sermon Notes and Summary

1 Peter 1:13 tells us to “prepare” our minds. The word prepare in this context means “gird your loins”. Attempting to work or fight in a tunic was difficult. Thus, men and women would “gird their loins”. Gird means to “encircle or bind with a belt or band”. Thus, to gird one’s loins meant to prepare yourself for battle. Prepare your minds is a strong imperative to prepare our minds when we encounter our culture so that we can be holy.

Preparing for Battle



<https://www.artofmanliness.com/skills/manly-know-how/how-to-gird-up-your-loins-an-illustrated-guide/>
<https://www.royalgazette.com/religion/lifestyle/article/20220813/gird-up-your-loins-and-operate-in-gods-way-of-love/>

Preparing for Hard Work

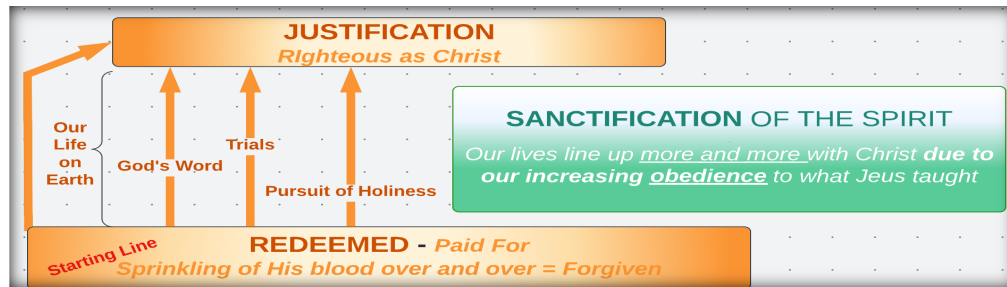


// Community Questions

1. Discuss a behavioral trait that you inherited from you parents or that one of your children inherited from you where someone, after seeing that behavior, might say, “the apple doesn’t fall far from the tree”
2. Tell about a time where you delegated a responsibility, and they were way off on what you expected. How did you discover they weren’t close to what you wanted. How did you steer them back on track.

// Discussion Questions

1. [Review Question] We are “redeemed” (saved) when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. At that same time, we are “justified” – made as righteous as Jesus in God’s eyes. Sanctification is what takes place during our earthly existence; we become more like Jesus through our obedience to what he has taught. So far, Jim has taught us 3 areas that help us be more like Jesus: God’s Word, Trials, and the Pursuit of Holiness. How do these aid in our becoming more like Jesus here on earth?



2. In I Peter 1, Peter emphasized walking in hope. He now transitions to walking in holiness. How does hope assist us in pursuing holiness?
What would be the impact on our pursuit of holiness if there was no hope?
3. Peter tells us to “prepare our minds” and be sober minded.? When reworded/translated using the STEP Bible word tool, it would turn into: ‘gird the loins of your minds and be self-controlled and clear-headed’.
What does it mean to “gird the loins of your minds”. How is that done?
What does it mean to be clear headed, and what specific action can we take to become clear headed?
4. If you are going to rid yourself of a bad habit or change your behavior, which is easier: simply stopping the behavior or stopping the behavior and putting something in its place?
Read Philippians 4:8 and discuss how this behavior change concept applies to us being more like Jesus.
What does it look like to “think about these things” in our day-to-day existence?
5. Jim asked the rhetorical question on Sunday, “if you’re not currently the most influential person in your child’s life forming him or her into a fully devoted follower of Jesus...who is? And what are they hoping your child becomes?”
How would you answer those questions?
If you are the most influential person, how did you accomplish this and how are you maintaining this position?
6. We have been ransomed from “the futile ways inherited from your forefathers” (v.18)
What are some of those ways and why are they futile?

// **Challenge.** What are you choosing to fill your mind with that is not helping where your thoughts dwell? What is God telling you to do instead? Choose one thing to do this week to prepare your mind to be filled with something better.