

HOW TO WALK IN THE DARK

I Peter
1:13-18



Summary of Today's Message

Holiness is an uncomfortable subject for most believers. We have no problem assigning holiness to God as we sing, “You Are Holy, Oh Lord!” But our minds get muddled when we think of our own holiness because we don't want to appear *holier than thou*.

Summary of Today's Message

So what does it mean to be holy? And how can we live holy lives around unholy people? In short, how can we be “children of light” (Ephesians 5:8) while walking in a dark world?

Let's Review

Spiritual metaphor of darkness and light (see John 8:12 and Ephesians 8:14)

You have been hand-chosen by God (vv. 1-2)

God has given you a living hope (v. 3)

Let's Review

You have an incorruptible inheritance in heaven
(vv. 4-5)

Your suffering is temporary (vv. 6-9)

You have what the prophets predicted and the
angels ponder (vv. 10-12)

How do you punch holes in the darkness—live for Christ in a dark world?

I. Prepare Your Mind: Think

Gird the loins of your mind—think clearly

Modern term would be to roll up your sleeves

Be sober—think clearly, be morally decisive

Studies show that our subconscious minds
govern our actions

How do you punch holes in the darkness—live for Christ in a dark world?

Proverbs 23:7

“For as he thinks in his heart, so is he”

If you walk in the darkness in your mind, you walk in the darkness in real life

A Christian should set his or her hope on the coming of Jesus Christ—think hopefully

How do you punch holes in the darkness—live for Christ in a dark world?

We're in a long distance race, not a sprint
Jesus at the finish line should be our motivation

Matthew 25:23

“Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things Enter into the joy of your Lord.”

II. Shape Your Conduct: Act

We have to cut out the past—say no to the old
life

The word "no" is a spiritual word

Say "yes" to our Father

The primary attribute of God is holiness (see
Isaiah 6:3)

Reflect God's holiness

W-H-O-L-E-ness

II. Shape Your Conduct: Act

Say no to the old paths, you say yes to your Father, and that shapes your conduct

III. Focus Your Will

Jesus is a resident in your life, not a tourist; He wants the key to every room

C.S. Lewis

"How little people know who think holiness is dull. When one meets the real thing, it is irresistible. Even if 10 percent of the world's population had it, would not the whole world be converted before the year's end?"

Part of our Christian growth is to remove the dark spots and replace them with holiness

Focus Your Will: Choose

Convictions = firmly held beliefs

Be holy because God says so in the Bible

Signature phrase of Billy Graham:

"The Bible says"

God's judgment is the light at the end of the
tunnel

Focus Your Will: Choose

1 Corinthians 4:5

"Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in the darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each one will receive his praise from God." That day is coming.

Summary of Today's Message

If you want to punch holes in the darkness, think clearly, live holy, and choose decisively

You will be the most enlightened person in the
bunch

Romans 15:13

**May the God of Hope Fill you with
Joy**

There's peace in believing the Lord

May your whole life and outlook

Abound in hope

Be radiant be radiant in hope

(Repeat)