

**Opening Thought**

Who do you honor in your daily life? Why? How?

Who honors you? How do you know?

**Time in the Word**

Read aloud 1 Peter 1:13-14.

- There's a saying, "Ignorance is bliss." Is that true? If not, what word would you use instead of bliss?
- Admonitions about self-control, obedience, and perseverance can give a negative slant to being a believer. What are some positive terms you would use to describe the life of a believer?
- What makes self-control or obedience less difficult for the believer?

**Open discussion**

- How do you honor God in your daily life?
- Is it a struggle to honor God? Why?
- What are some changes in your habits, thoughts, or perception that occurred immediately after you accepted Christ?

**Point to Ponder**

- Major events in your life can alter your perspective. Those who haven't experienced what you have can struggle to understand your point of view.

How can this observation impact the way you might engage an unbeliever when discussing the benefits of a Christian lifestyle?



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**Our Purpose**  
why we exist

The purpose of the church is to bring glory to God.

**Our Mission**  
what we do

Love God • Love People • Make Disciples

**Our Core Values**  
how we do it

- Worship** - lifting up the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
- Connect** - living in community, loving and supporting one another
- Grow** - equipping believers to live in obedience to God's Word
- Serve** - helping people discover and use their God-given talents
- Reach** - transforming lives and communities with the good news of Jesus Christ

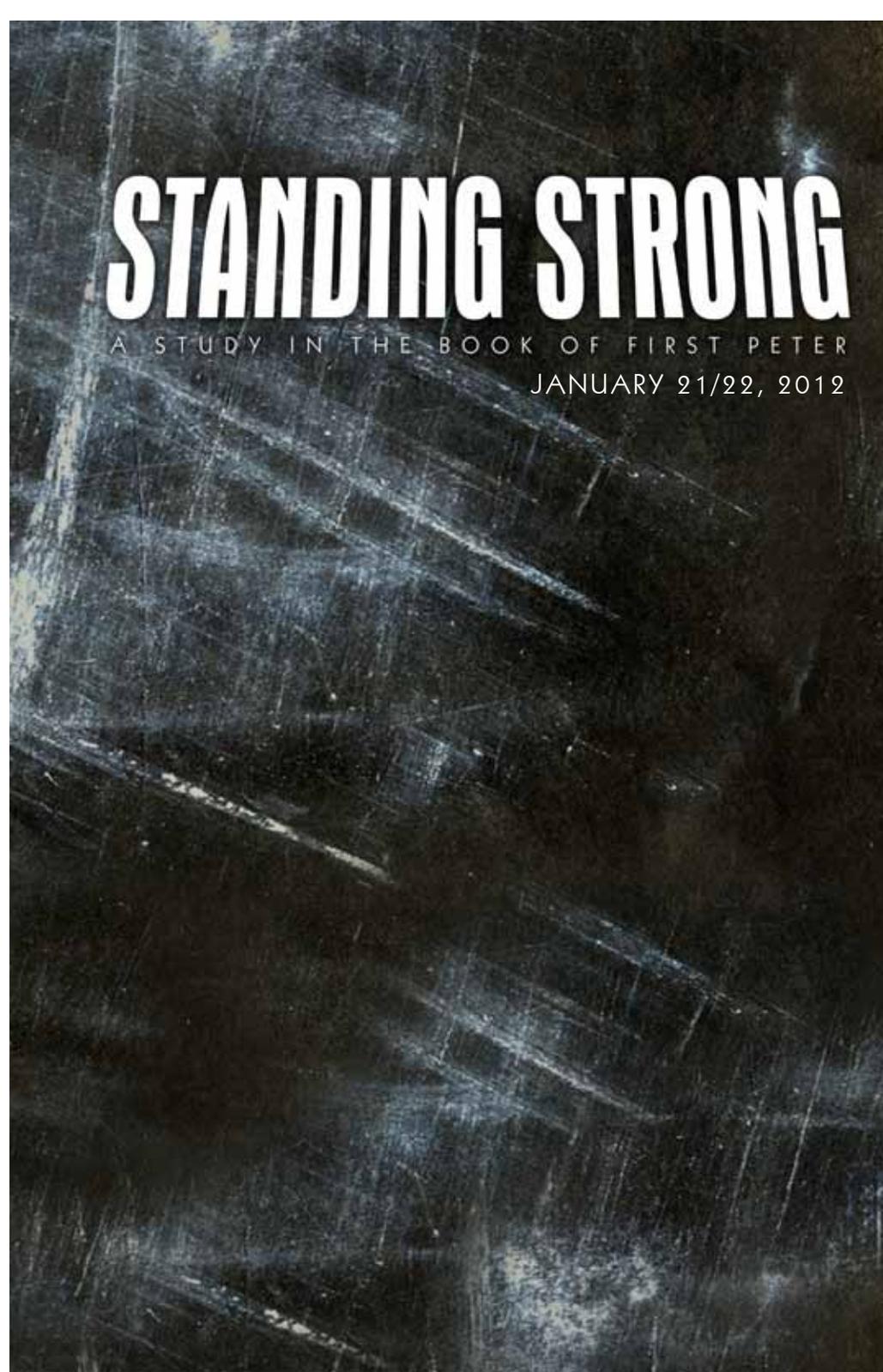
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## Living a God-Honoring Life

1 Peter 1:13-2:3 (NLT)  
Pastor Rick Countryman

*So think clearly and exercise self-control. Look forward to the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy." And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of him during your time as "foreigners in the land." For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but he has now revealed him to you in these last days. Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because he raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory. You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart. For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God. As the Scriptures say, "People are like grass; their beauty is like a flower in the field. The grass withers and the flower fades. But the word of the Lord remains forever." And that word is the Good News that was preached to you.*

*So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness.*  
1 Peter 1:13-2:3 (NLT)

### Why do followers of Christ at times struggle to live out their faith?

#### Before Christ: one sin-filled nature

*Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.*  
Ephesians 2:1-3 (NLT)

#### With Christ: two natures

1. The old, sin-filled nature (Everybody has this.)
2. The new, Christ-filled nature

#### Your new, Christ-filled nature wants:

to do what's right	to read the Word
to follow the Lord	to pray
to obey all the laws of God	to give
to be under the control of God	to serve
to gather with other believers	to sacrifice
to sing songs	to share

#### The old sin nature wants:

to be the boss                      to do its own thing

#### It hates everything about the new nature.

*The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.*  
Romans 8:7 (NIV)

### What will help me live a God-honoring life?

#### 1. A new \_\_\_\_\_

*So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy.*  
Verse 14-15

*Anyone who is joined to Christ is a new being; the old is gone, the new has come.*  
2 Corinthians 5:17 (GN)

*And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*  
Romans 12:1-3 (NLT)

*All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.*  
2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT)

#### 2. \_\_\_\_\_

**(because God paid a \_\_\_\_\_ for me)**

*So think clearly and exercise self-control.*  
Verse 13

*For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.*  
Verses 18-19

### I need to work at

#### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ people the way Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ people.

*You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart.*  
Verse 22

#### 2. Controlling my \_\_\_\_\_.

*So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech.*  
1 Peter 2:1 (NLT)

#### 3. Getting into \_\_\_\_\_.

*Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness.*  
1 Peter 2:2



### Memory Verse

For It is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

1 Peter 1:16 (NIV)

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### Monday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Review the sermon outline and read through all the verses. Through which verse did God speak to you? Spend time meditating on the verse. What do you sense God saying to you?

Which of the desires of the new nature are most challenging for you?

### Tuesday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read 1 Peter 1.

In verse 13, what examples are given for believers to prepare their minds for action?

Does this describe the way you prepare your mind? What might you work on?

From verses 14-16, who is to be holy and how does this happen? How does a person learn to be holy?

Why is "it is written" significant?

### Wednesday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read 1 Peter 1.

Define the word *redeem*.

Explain how believers are redeemed. How does this make you feel?

In your own words, write your best translation of verses 17-21.

### Thursday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read 1 Peter 1.

From verses 22-25, what connection do you see between having all your sins cleansed and showing love to other Christians?

What do these verses say will last forever? Why?  
From where does it come?

### Friday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read 1 Peter 2:1-3.

What is meant by "craving pure spiritual milk"? What is the benefit of doing so?

Why do you think it might be hard to crave spiritual milk?

### Personal Reflection & Application

Read Romans 6:5-14. According to these verses, what power does sin have over someone who is in Christ?

How does submission to Christ affect sin's power over believers?

Think of someone you find hard to love. Considering 1 Peter 1: 22, ask God for His power to love this person sincerely.

### Reaching Out

Share with someone the practical things that help you stay strong when you struggle to live out your faith.