

Intro: There is a moment right before a race starts that everyone and everything stops...
 The athletes have spent years preparing...their hopes and dreams are on the line...it's like the world stops for just a second
 And then the gun sounds and they are off and running! Straining with everything they have toward the finish line.

That is the image that Peter is painting for us in the passage of scripture we are looking at today.
 The "race" that he is speaking about is the race we are all running in our spiritual lives, running toward the finish line/heaven
 Here is what Peter is saying: We are here...in this world we don't fit in...struggling to get it right: The "Is" and the "Should"
 As we are on this journey toward heaven, Peter is saying to us...there are a couple of things I want you to do to be successful

Turn with me to 1 Peter 1: 13ff and Let's Talk about 3 Things Peter encourages us to do in order to run the race! Pg 857

1. MIND RIGHT: Prepare Your Mind For Action: Get Mentally Prepared For The Journey! Vs 13

All of the things Peter talks about here are Mind Things...all about thinking correctly

- **Prepare Mind** Lit = Gird up loins of your mind: Describes the process of gathering robes to run or hurry
 We would say: *Get your head in the game, Get head screwed on straight, Wrap mind around it!*
 It is what the runner is doing when you see him stand there...hurdles...eyes closed...picturing the race
- **Be self controlled:** It means be level headed, keeping your wits about you, calm, cool, collected!
 Don't just go with flow, surrender to others, allow circumstances to set course
 Yes life can be difficult, Yes, it can be a battle, Yes, Overwhelming...
- **Set your hope on the grace to be given:** (*Not given... "But that which will be brought to you!"*)
 Trumpet will sound: dead in Christ will rise: We will meet Him in the air: And He will bring ALL HE PROMISED!
 Stay focused on the promise of God! Illus: (Runner at the line...imagining)
 ~You WILL be transformed ~You WILL be made like Him
 ~You WILL get through this ~You WILL be rescued from this world!
 He who began a good work in you WILL carry it on to completion...when he shows up...reward is in his hand!
- **Work to make sure your mind is spiritually made new** (REPROGRAM YOUR MIND!) Culture pushes one way
 There are two pieces of this...one here and one in Romans
 ~Here: Do not Conform: Lit = Do not follow the pattern of the world around you (Dress pattern!)
 ~Rom: 12:2-3 Be transformed: Lit = to be changed from one thing to another! (Caterpillar)
 In Romans Paul tells us the HOW of transforming our minds! (*Renewing: Lit = Renovation, Remodeling!*)
 ~Don't thing too much of yourself
 ~Think correctly about yourself: See yourself the way God does!
 Illus: Best way I know to do that is scripture...'Eph calls it the washing of the water of the word!
 When you are: Studying it, Listening to it, Memorizing it, Teaching it...Renovates your mind!
 The scripture is living and active, sharper than any sword...Put it in...cuts out old...renews, replaces!

3 Truths To Live By

1. Get your mind right! Start thinking correctly
2. Reprogram it with the word of God! (Get in a group, Bible Study, Scripture Memory, SS Class, Devotions)

KEY: 3. The Spiritual condition of your mind is DIRECTLY PROPORTIONAL to the amount of time in the Bible!

2. ACTIONS RIGHT: Live Your Daily Life In Recognition Of The Holiness of God. Vs 14-21

I have a good friend of mine that used to say something to his children on their way out the door.
 "Remember who you are..." What you do reflects on your family...Mother, Father, Brothers, Sisters...Remember

That is what Peter is saying to those reading his letter...those scattered Christians...trying to Live Up in a Down World

- **Resist the temptation:** *Do Not Conform* (Don't cut according to the patterns around you!)
 The way that you talk, the mindset you have, the actions you take, the morality, values, principles... different!
- **Remember who you belong to!** You are a child of God! He is Holy...Means there is no impurity in Him
As Obedient Children And if YOU are child of God...Don't let impurities creep into your life! (or stay)
- **Remember the judgment to come:** Paul says in 2 Cor that we are all going to appear before the judgment seat
Live in Reverent Fear And in 1 Cor he tells us that our work...our life...will be judged by Jesus
 Jesus says to us Mt 12:36 "*We will have to give account for every careless word*"
- **Recognize the price paid for you!** *Redeemed: Lit = to be set free by payment of a price* (Slave debt paid for)
 Peter is saying, you were sold by Adam...your forefather...into the slave market of sin
 Have Been Living as a child of darkness...hopeless...separate from God...and from His grace
 You were Lost in sin...with a debt against the holiness of God that you could NEVER pay
 But then...Jesus...paid the price...and He set you free! Never forget the price that was paid
 The Holiness of God was satisfied, The wrath of God was poured out. The price was paid on the cross for every sin
 Isaiah 53:4-12 Remember where that freedom came from, Recognize the price!

2 Truths to Live By

1. Live in Light of judgment to come in your life
2. Live in Light of the price that was paid for your sin

3. LOVE: Love The People Around You The Way God Loves People.

Vs 22-25

Not only are we to get our MINDS right, and our ACTIONS right, we also need to LOVE right as well!

Peter says, OK, now that you have the first two nailed down (The easy ones) lets focus on what is not so easy!
Because you understand that PEOPLE are the hard part, right? Loving people the way we should is not easy!

- Love Sincerely: Unfeigned, Without any pretense. Let it REALLY be love! Not speaking or acting a part to be intense, fervent, to be sold out in your commitment to others
- Love deeply to love from a pure heart. Let your motivations and your intentions be right before God (Interesting that everything else has been about mind and actions...but here HEART Peter is saying, don't fall into the trap of letting your love be mere words Don't fall into the trap of letting your love be actions...that don't rise from a good heart It isn't enough to say it...and do it...The kind of love he is talking about is REAL!
- From the heart

Truths To Live By

1. Check your heart! (Yes, the words are good...yes the actions are good...what about your heart?)
2. Check the depth of your commitment. Make sure that you love...both when it is deserved...and when it isn't!

CONCL:

Living up in a down world isn't easy! For those of us who claim Christ as our Lord and Savior the bar is pretty high!
Peter is talking to people that are scattered, persecuted, living every day in a world that is not their home
And as he opens his letter to them he says...

Get Ready: Make sure your mind is right
Get Set: Make sure your actions are right
Go! Love people...the way God loves them...deeply...sincerely...completely...undeserved or not

1. Get your mind right: We have to make sure we are ready for whatever comes our way!
How do you do that? A commitment to daily time with God in the word. Read bible, pray, get ready for day!
Just like the runner at the starting line...Pray through your day...Think through your day...Ask God to be with you
Be ready..before it gets there!
Come make a commitment to that
2. Get your Actions Right:
Are there some things in your life that need to change?
Some things you need to add
Some things you need to ask God to remove from your life?
Come ask Him for help to do that
3. Get your Love Right
Maybe there is someone in your life that you find it hard to love
Maybe you have been going through the motions...need to make some changes
Need help with loving them the way Jesus did....Come and seek that help