

Title: PREPARE, ACT, KNOW, 1 PETER 1:13 – 25  
(Chatham, NJ; 05/04/14, AM) [Pc – Exegesis]

Theme: Peter exhorts his audience to prepare for action, conduct themselves appropriately, and know that they have been redeemed.

Purpose: To deliver the same message of preparation, conduct, and assurance.

Introduction:

1. Several times Peter mentions something about what they used to be.
2. His exhortations are to prepare for action, to conduct themselves appropriately, and to know for sure that God has redeemed them.

## I. Prepare for Action, 13-16

### A. Studying the art of war

1. Plato understood one of the fundamental concepts of fighting a war: “true courage is the ability of a soldier to fight and stay in rank even when he knows the odds are against him,” (*How the West Won*, Stark, 18)
2. This is why at Valley Forge George Washington brought in a Prussian General who prepared the Americans to fight by staying in rank, by supporting the whole column rather than breaking and running
3. This takes preparation and training
4. A fundamental aspect of Western military affairs is that war cannot be left in the hands of brave hotheads; it requires reflection and reason.
5. Fighting demands preparation and discipline

### B. Peter’s exhortation sounds similar

1. Prepare your minds for action – realize that you are in a battle
2. Be sober-minded – keep your wits about you when things become chaotic
3. Set your hope fully on grace – the battle ultimately belongs to God
4. Do not be conformed to the passions of your *former* ignorance – you’ve learned now what the fight is all about, reject sinful impulses
5. Former: values from your past must be overturned
6. Be holy – Peter’s exhortation boils down to this: be different, be like God

## II. Act According to the New Ways: Conduct Yourselves with Fear

### A. If you call on an impartial God

1. Peter argues from a common assumption – God is impartial
2. He learned this directly from God, Acts 10:34 (it’s been said that those things you learn by experience you never forget)
3. Sometimes we defend the indefensible because of partiality
  - FDR – “he may be a thief, but he’s our thief”
  - Roman Polanski is still defended by some Hollywood stars
  - Everyone defends their own

### B. But God is impartial

1. He judges us by what we do
2. He takes no bribes and caters his justice to no particular group
3. His righteous nature determines his judgments
4. Hence, Peter says that God judges according to our deeds (17)
5. Matthew 7:21 – expressions of devotion are no substitute for doing the will of God; only in this way will we enter the Kingdom of Heaven
6. Thus, we must conduct ourselves with fear (17)
7. It is by our deeds that we will be judged

### III. Know That You've Been Ransomed (18)

#### A. Ransomed by Christ's life

1. Mark 10:45 – Christ came “to give his life as a ransom for many.”
2. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, “You are not your own. You were bought with a price.”
3. Two things motivate us:
4. First, gratitude for the freedom we have: one of Captain Riley's captors, though he still considered Riley a slave, had compassion on him because he too had experienced the fear of perhaps never seeing his wife and family again
5. Second, we don't own ourselves; fortunately our master has treated us with the utmost love and concern as well as freedom

#### B. Ransomed from the “futile ways inherited from your forefathers” (18)

1. Probably the way of the Law of Moses
2. Yet we all have a past that has not served us well
3. Many of our parents have taught us well, yet we must examine those things that have guided us into futile behaviors
  - Ayaan Hirsi Ali – Values matter, *Infidel* 349
  - Particular values of Islam guided the Barbary pirates,

#### Conclusions:

1. We have particular values given by God that guide us.
2. The first is that we have been ransomed by Christ's blood.
3. The second is that God will judge us impartially. How we behave matters.
4. The third is that we must always be prepared for those things that wage war against our souls.
5. We set our hope fully on the grace of Christ (13).
6. Be prepared, conduct ourselves with holiness, and trust in the imperishable blood of Christ. It is our certain hope for redemption.