

Date: March 29, 2010
Reading: 1 Peter 1-3

Clothing in the first century was different from modern styles. Both men and women wore long garments or tunics that stretched nearly to the ankle. A belt around the waist served a dual purpose. It could be used to carry money (e.g., Matthew 10:9), but it also was useful for gathering one's tunic closer to the body or "girding the loins." When a person was working or engaged in strenuous physical activity, the tunic could be gathered up from between the legs and tucked into the belt around his waist. By doing such, a person had "girded up his loins" and was prepared for action.

The apostle Peter counseled his readers, the pilgrims of the Dispersion, to "gird up the loins of your mind" (1 Peter 1:13). He had just reminded them of the blessed spiritual condition that they enjoyed. They had been born again to a living hope, to an inheritance whose beauty and freshness never fades (1:3-4). The grace which his readers enjoyed had been predicted by the prophets of old who were unsure of the timetable for the fulfillment of the things of which they spoke.

Even the angels desired to look into the things which Peter's readers had heard when the gospel was preached to them by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. What response should be made to such wonderful blessings?

The apostle encouraged his readers to "prepare their minds for action" (NASB). When one "girded his loins", he re-arranged his clothing so that his garment(s) did not impede his movement and he could accomplish what needed to be done. If we are to receive praise, honor and glory (1:7), i.e., the salvation of our souls, at the revelation (appearing) of Jesus Christ, then we have to remove anything from our minds which would serve as an impediment. We need to lay aside all malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy and evil speaking (2:1), i.e., anything which would prevent us from receiving the salvation of our souls.

We need to be sober, "free from every form of mental and spiritual excess and confusion" (Friberg, Analytical Greek Lexicon). To focus on our goal we must be clear-headed, self-disciplined.

Peter also instructed his readers to "rest their hope fully upon the grace that to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1:13). Notice the word "fully"! God's grace is the basis of our hope; His favor provides the reason for any expectation on our part that we will be, even can be, saved! Of course, God's grace is the manifestation of His love for us.

Despite the part that divine grace plays in our salvation, we must be obedient children (1:14). We must be holy even as God is holy (1:15-16).

As you read today, give thought to how blessed we are to live on this side of the cross, to know the things which God had prepared beforehand for us, things that even angels desired to look into!

God bless the reader,

Allen

