

INTRO: Describe or illustrate the limbo where people try to get as low as possible to pass under the pole.

TRANS: When it comes to our salvation from God we don't want to see how low we can get the bar of our righteousness.

1:13-25: The Process of Sanctification is the outcome of our position in this salvation. We should show holy fruit or good works from this salvation.

True believers ready their minds for holy living, 1:12;

Because of this salvation (1:5, 9,10) we ready our minds for eager obedience by anticipating when this salvation is culminated at Jesus' return.

1. Desire holiness, 1:13-16;

Having God as our Heavenly Father, we want to be increasingly like Him in holiness in all we do.

Jesus gives glimpses of holy living.

- Taught that people must be perfect as God is perfect, (Matthew 5:48).
- He enjoyed being with sinners (Matthew 9:12).
- Scorn for those who were self-righteous and only outwardly acted holy (Matthew 23:25-26).
- He brought glory to God by obedience (John 17:4).

2. Fear displeasing our Heavenly Father, 1:17-21;

Since our Father will judge our conduct on earth we live ("time of your exile") in fear of displeasing him knowing that He has redeemed us by the precious blood of Jesus giving us an imperishable seed.

- God will judge our behavior here as his children. This fear concerns our behavior as it reflects back on God as our Father.

Read fear quote by 17th century Bible teacher:

“The fear here recommended is ...a holy self-suspicion and fear of offending God, which may not only consist with assured hope of salvation, and with faith, and love, and spiritual joy, but is their inseparable companion....This fear is not cowardice: it doth not debase, but elevates the mind; for it drowns all lower fears, and begets true fortitude and courage to encounter all dangers, for the sake of a good conscience and the obeying of God.” (Grudem’s Peter, 82)

- God bought us by the blood of Jesus so that we do not live in futility of sin.

3. Love fellow believers from pure hearts, 1:22-25;

Having purified souls by our trust in the gospel we can now and forever love fellow believers without any pretense.

Christians love with purified souls such that

- Our love is without duplicity, “sincerely love”
- Our love is from a pure heart
- Our love is eternal, “of imperishable seed”

Jesus commands such love from His genuine followers when he declared, “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you” (John 15:12).

CNCL: Another way to use a bar is seeing how high you can set it like pole vaulting. Using a pole athletes catapult their bodies to heights they could never reach on their own.

PNT: With the Holy Spirit working in our spirits we can reach heights of holiness never possible left to ourselves.

How high will the bar of holiness be this week for you?

- 1. Desire holiness, 1:13-16;**
- 2. Fear displeasing our Heavenly Father, 1:17-21;**
- 3. Love fellow believers from pure hearts, 1:22-25;**

You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (Matthew 5:48; ESV)

But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. (Matthew 9:12; ESV)

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean. (Matthew 23:25-26; ESV)

I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. (John 17:4 ESV)