

Pondering and Thinking... April 29,2021

Have you ever had someone tell you something and when they were through you had no idea what they were talking about? As a student of the Bible and as someone who tries to communicate it clearly I find it helpful to narrow down the material to short statements which I can remember. In 1 Peter 1:13-14 the apostle does exactly that.

1 Peter 1:13–14 (NIV) ¹³...prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.

Prepare your mind means to get ready to set aside distractions and things that clutter our minds.

Be self-controlled means to be controlled from the inside rather than by outside circumstances.

Set your HOPE fully focusing on God's Grace and His Promises.

Do NOT Conform do not let your former desires and passions drag you down.

The Philipps translation puts vs. 14 this way...“Don't let your **character be molded by the DESIRES** of your **ignorant days**, but be holy in every area of your lives...”

Paul reminds us in his letter to Rome NOT to conform to the patterns of the world but to be TRANSFORMED by the renewing of our minds. The Philipps translation puts it this way.

“Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God re-mold your minds from within...” Rm. 12:2

PRAYER: Lord God, thank You for Your Word – Please Lord, help me to stop everyday and ask for your help in preparing my mind for the battles I may face. Help me to seek Your help to be disciplined in obeying You and to put my HOPE fully and completely in You. Please Lord, continue the work of Re-shaping and molding my mind. Please keep the world from squeezing my mind into its mold.

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