

GIRD UP YOUR MIND

Girdles are a thing of the past, I am sure. They went the way of corsets. However, Brother Peter's use of this device is as fresh and inventive as any modern thing in today's world. The mind REALLY does need to be girded.

Peter realizes that every effort must be made to keep the things of the LORD in mind. What the Lord put in the mind is the only truth to live by. The warning from Peter is clear: we must process the WORD on a daily basis, or this AGE of INFORMATION will destroy us. It never stops. Soon, any godly concept, placed by the Holy Spirit, will be lost. Confusion awaits, eagerly, to rush in and rule, once again.

Yep! We must hear what Peter is preaching. Certainly, on a 24/7 basis, we are bombarded with INFORMATION about sports, world events, news about sports, entertainment and, even more sports. If we aren't careful, we'll be acting like fans; rather, than kings and priests. Therefore, GIRD UP YOUR MIND, Peter yells, pounding the pulpit.

How do we gird the mind? The concept, like Church Service, is not difficult. Simply, take a spiritual belt, woven from the fabric of the sixty-six books, and wrap it around you mind, securely. Be sure to tuck in every precept on salvation. There is an order to this; for girding comes before putting on the helmet of salvation (Gal. 17). We must keep in mind what the LORD has done for us, then we are to protect those salvation precepts with that safety helmet.

That's the SOP (standard operating procedure) that is found in the Service Manual, the BIBLE. And, when Peter speaks out of the manual, he says, "**As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful search and inquiry,**" 1Pe. 1:10.

The prophets were serving us, not themselves, Peter says. What they prophesied would come to light when the Holy Spirit was sent from heaven (v12).

Further, an Angelic Host, longs to look at these prophetic truths. "**Therefore, gird up your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**" Peter avows that the LORD'S SALVATION is worth living.

Baptists know about security in the LORD. Their salvation is by grace through faith, based upon Jesus dying for their sins and removing the LAW that kept them in bondage.

Salvation, based upon the death of Jesus, is what Baptists preached years ago and, it must be what Baptists preach today.

Here, is a huge point on Once Saved, Always Saved. For, if the Law is gone, sin is gone. The Law was not removed until Jesus met all its conditions. The Law could not be removed until it was fully paid.

And, because the Law was satisfied, Jesus rose triumphantly, out of the grave. And, on this subject of salvation, Baptists have to keep their minds girded upon the work of Jesus; not, on what they or others do.

A girded, spiritual mind is not given to fleeting. The LORD'S salvation lasts because it is EVERLASTING; being supported by the Everlasting God that brings EVERLASTING LIFE to all who trust in the Substitutionary Death of Jesus.

We must hear and do what Peter and other Biblical writers tell us, Baptist or not. Thus, James writes about service - about living out our salvation. **"But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves," James 1:22.**

"For if anyone," he goes on to say, "is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was," vs. 23, 24.

Clearly, keeping salvation truth in the mind is no automatic matter for a Christian, regardless of what they tell us. Realizing that one is "Born Again," is not the same as living for the LORD in the new birth; as a First Born Son.

Jesus often explained the difference between being saved and being a disciple, calling the blessed ones, Sons and CHILDREN, in many places. In Mt. 13 he says the good seed are the children of the kingdom. He calls Peacemakers, Sons of God in Mt 5:9. (In other verses, Jesus calls disciples, Children of light, day and bridechamber)

On this point, we may look at spiritual truths in the way we look at physical things. The Holy Scripture is teaching that Children look and act like their Father; at least, while in His presence. When away from the Father, Sons know that they must tighten the gird just a bit more, allowing salvation to rule the heart and control the mind.

The Apostles only echoed what the Lord, Jesus said about the truth and service; which, to Peter, is a very serious concern for a disciple. He knew, personally, how easily we can be sidetracked when the mind is hit by the world. It's new and exciting, touching every part of carnality.

But, the old, old story is the same today, yesterday and forever. In nearly every chapter of The Service Manual, there is a call for precaution; none, more tender than the words spoken by Jesus, in John Ten. **"I am the good Shepherd; and I know My own, and My own know Me,"**

When sheep know that their Shepherd is watching them, the roar of the lion is but a faint meow. In the green pastures, sheep are hunkered down underneath their helmet of salvation. The devil's darts fall weakly, far from the mark, every time. Sheep are going to win the spiritual war because everything is in place.

In a sheep's mind, salvation is alive and well, snugly girded. It sets the mind against conformity of the former lusts. Sheep are smart and alert because they trust in the Holy One who called them (1st Pe. 1:13-14).

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