

# COMMUNITY GROUP LEADER SERMON SUMMARY, 2/24/13

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1 Peter 1:13 — “A Fixed and Focused Hope,” Ryan Kelly

Series: *First Peter: Between Two Worlds*

In short: The hope of Christ's return occupies a prominent place in the New Testament vision of the Christian life

## SUNDAY'S OUTLINE

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The Move from Indicative to Imperative

1. The Focus of Hope: Jesus' Return — More Grace, More of Jesus
2. The Action of Hope: Set It — Set It Firmly, Set It Fully
3. The Strategy for Hope: the Mind — Ready-Mindedness, Sober-Mindedness

## HELP FOR OBSERVING, INTERPRETING, AND APPLYING THE SERMON TEXT

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1. Ryan began his sermon by introducing an important principle represented by two words. Do you recall what those were? What is their significance and can you give any examples from around the Bible or in First Peter where this principle shows up? What are the dangers involved in missing this principle?

*In Christianity the “indicative” always precedes the “imperative.” The “indicative” refers to what is true, it is descriptive, and indicates what God has done. The “imperative” refers to what should be, what is prescribed, what we should do in light of what God has done. This is all over the New Testament and certainly in 1 Peter 1 where to this point Peter has focused on what God has done, and now he turns to what we should do. Get these backwards and lose the gospel. We are not God's children because of what we do.*

2. The main subject of Sunday's sermon was the return of Christ. What comes into your mind when you think about the return of Christ? Ryan outlined a few different responses based on differing backgrounds. Which, if any, of these resonated with you?

*Unbelievers often scoff at the return of Christ. Some of us who do believe just never think about it. Or if we do, we think it's irrelevant. For others, the return of Christ is like a hobbyhorse, and something to be charted. Some have reacted to that kind of a church culture and think of it as old school. For others, it's a fearful thing if they aren't ready, or an unfortunate thing if they would just assume stay keep with their plans.*

3. What's so great about the return of Christ?

*Christ is what is great about Christ's return. The glory in his return for us is seeing him and being with him.*

4. What word picture does Peter use to express how we're to be ready for Christ's return? What are some more familiar word pictures that relate that idea to us? Is this your posture toward Christ's return? How should a command like this shape the way we think about sermon “application”?

Peter tells his readers to “gird up [their] loins.” In the first century a man might have worn a long robe. In the course of work, a man would have tucked his robe in his belt in order to move freely. Today, we might “buckle up” before driving, or “get set” before running, or “roll up his sleeves” before working. This command aimed at the mind and affections is the more common form of “application” in the Bible.

## QUOTES, ILLUSTRATIONS, AND OTHER MATERIAL FROM THE SERMON

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- Richard Baxter: “If there be so certain and glorious a rest for the saints, why is there no more industrious seeking after it? One would think, if a man did but hear of such unspeakable glory to be obtained, and believed what he heard to be true, he should be transported with the vehemency of his desire after it, and should almost forget to eat or drink, and should care for nothing else, and speak of and inquire after nothing else, but how to get this treasure. And yet people who hear it daily, and profess to believe it as a fundamental article of their faith, do as little mind it, or labour for it, as if they had never heard of any such thing, or did not believe one word they hear.”
- Some verses that refer to the return of Christ: 1 Cor. 1:7; Phil. 3:20-21; Col. 3:4; 1 Thes. 4:16-18; 2 Thes. 1:7; 2 Tim. 4:8; Tit. 2:13; Heb. 9:28.