

1 PETER 1:13 GRASP THE GRACE

¹³ *Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.*

In a candy store world of options, making the right choice is predicated on self control. When I get up in the morning, I have at my fingertips the television, radio, internet, newspaper, i-pod, a novel for enjoyment, a textbook for study, and my Bible for a quiet time – and all that before breakfast. It is clear, that in modern life, getting to breakfast requires self control. This fact becomes even more significant when I consider the snooze button on my alarm clock.

It is self control that prepares me to have my quiet time amidst this sea of options. It is self control that enables me to set my hope on God's grace – that real, yet intangible, promise from God. Working to attain what is future in the midst of a myriad of things present takes discipline – another word for self control.

Peter is telling us that receiving grace is an action. Grace is offered to us without our merit or work, but it is only received by those who are prepared through self control. To grasp the gift offered our hands must be free of the things present.

Lord Jesus, you made the offer of grace to me through your death and resurrection. Through the Holy Spirit empower in me the desire to grasp that grace and the self discipline to shun those things that would distract and prevent me from receiving it. Amen.