

## Word for the Week



### *Catch the Wave!*

Peter's words in this coming Sunday's text from 1 Peter 1:13-25 make me think of boogie boarding in the waves of the Atlantic Ocean. Each summer, many in our extended family gather at my sister's home near a beach south of Boston and most of us brave the cold water to ride the waves. It is a blast. Similarly to what Peter calls us to do in this text, to "catch a wave", when we go out into the water, we've got to prepare our minds for action and discipline ourselves. We've got to focus on the task at hand, put up with the cold water, keep working to position ourselves on

the board in the right direction, patiently wait for just the right moment, and then paddle as fast as we can toward shore as the wave approaches, hoping the wave will swell under us at just the right time to take us all the way in to shore.

"Set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed," Peter writes. "Set all your hope..." Hope is such a powerful thing. In boogie boarding, if we think we might catch the wave, we will work hard to try. In studying for a test, if we think we might be able to bring our grade up a notch, we will invest extra time to make it happen. If we think that one more phone call might help us make a sale, we will bypass lunch or stay late in the office to make the call. In the same way, our hope in Jesus Christ can motivate us to holy, loving, God-honoring living.

Peter urges us to be completely confident in this hope. The love of God has been made clear through Jesus who gave his life for our sakes. The power of God was made clear through God's raising of Jesus from the dead. Our hope is secure and we can, therefore, live as God calls us to live knowing that in God's good timing our effort will have been worthwhile. God will take our modest efforts and work through them beyond what we can ask or imagine. God will sweep in with his power, lift us up, and bring us all the way home through the powerful presence of Jesus.

I love the way *The Message* version of the Bible puts it: "So roll up your sleeves, put your mind in gear, be totally ready to receive the gift that's coming when Jesus arrives. Don't lazily slip back into those old grooves of evil, doing just what you feel like doing. You didn't know any better then, you do now. As obedient children, let yourselves be pulled into a way of life shaped by God's life, a life energetic and blazing with holiness."

It's that sense of being pulled, empowered, enabled to live in a new way that captures my imagination. God invites us to something that goes far beyond us catching a wave. Peter promises that the wave of God's grace will catch us and bring us through. With our hope set on God's promise of grace, we can prepare for action and discipline ourselves to get moving and keep moving in the right direction, living according to God's direction, living with great anticipation of God's great wave of grace that is sure to come surging through.

### **Prayer:**

Loving God, thank you for the hope that is mine in you. Forgive me for so often setting my hope on the transient things of this world rather than on you. Help me to set all my hope on your grace, to be prepared for action every day, and each day to take action to love others as you have loved me. I pray with thanks and great hope in Jesus name. Amen.

**Suggested Verses for Meditation and Memorization:**

“Therefore prepare your minds for action, discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed.” 1 Peter 1:13

**Some Thing(s) to Try:**

- Read 1 Peter 1:13-25 out loud and notice what words or phrases catch your attention. Then think and pray about what that word or phrase means to you, how it encourages or challenges you.
- Each morning this week, read or recite (if you memorized it) the suggested verse for the week. Think about what it means for you to be prepared for God-honoring action in the coming day. Think about what it means for you to set your hope on the grace of God throughout the coming day. Pray that the Holy Spirit will help you do these things.
- Peter calls us to live in reverent fear before our Father who “judges all people impartially according to their deeds”. Since such living clearly includes following God’s example, pray about how you can practice judging people impartially rather than according to stereotypes or assumptions.
- Peter calls us to love one another deeply from the heart. Who is someone or who are some people you can practice loving deeply today? What is a way you can show such love today?

**Further Suggested Readings:**

- 1 Corinthians 15:58
- Nehemiah 8:1-10
- Psalm 19
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-31
- Luke 4:14-21

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