

The *Summum Bonum* of Earthly Life

1 Peter 1:17-21



1 Peter: Holy Living in a Hostile Land

Yes, according to Scripture, there is a supreme good defining all good for this life.

What is that supreme good? The highest good defining all other good in this life is knowing God and worshiping Him forever.

Yes, we can be certain that this *is* the highest good because **God has told us so** in the Bible.

What is Peter's primary concern, or his **main idea**, that he wants to instruct his readers in? It comes as the only command or imperative in these five verses:

“...conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth...”

This is the **primary** verb, conduct yourselves in fear, which conveys Peter's sense of action.

I. Your Response of Reverence (1 Peter 1:17)

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“The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.”

Ecclesiastes 12:13

I. Your Response of Reverence (1 Peter 1:17)

“So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear (phobos) of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.”

Acts 9:31

I. Your Response of Reverence (1 Peter 1:17)

“Therefore, having these promises beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear (phobos = reverent awe) of God.”

2 Corinthians 7:1

I. Your Response of Reverence (1 Peter 1:17)

“be subject to one another in the fear (phobos) of Christ.”

Ephesians 5:21

Our **mutual submission** to each other is from our shared reverence for Jesus.

I. Your Response of Reverence (1 Peter 1:17)

Our **profound reverence**, our **worshiping respect** for God is our supreme response to God's supreme work on our behalf. Your highest calling and most supreme good in this life are one and the same thing: to live in **holy response** to God's goodness to you in Jesus Christ.

I. Your Response of Reverence

II. **God's Work of Recompense** (1 Peter 1:17)

- I. Your Response of Reverence
- II. God's Work of Recompense
- III. God's Work of Redemption (1 Peter 1:18-19)

- I. Your Response of Reverence
- II. God's Work of Recompense
- III. **God's Work of Redemption** (1 Peter 1:18-19)

Each of us, if left to ourselves, will live in the futility of our own **sin nature**, our **anti-God inheritance** at home in our hearts.

- I. Your Response of Reverence
- II. God's Work of Recompense
- III. God's Work of Redemption
- IV. God's Work of Revelation (1 Peter 1:20)**

- I. Your Response of Reverence
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- IV. God's Work of Revelation (1 Peter 1:20)**

You are a **chosen one**, “*according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood...*” (1 Peter 1:1-2)

- I. Your Response of Reverence
- II. God's Work of Recompense
- III. God's Work of Redemption
- IV. God's Work of Revelation
- V. God's Work of Resurrection (1 Peter 1:21)**

- I. Your Response of Reverence
- II. God's Work of Recompense
- III. God's Work of Redemption
- IV. God's Work of Revelation
- V. God's Work of Resurrection (1 Peter 1:21)**

You are a **believer** in God; you are **set apart** to and have your life in God; you have an enduring and indestructible **faith** in God; and you have a living **hope** in God, all because God raised Jesus from the dead and gave Him glory.

“I know that everything God does will remain forever; there is nothing to add to it and there is nothing to take from it, for God has so worked that men should fear Him (be in awe before Him).”

Ecclesiastes 3:14

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