

**I.  
Therefore**

- This word “therefore” is the hinge between verses 1-12 and the rest of this letter
- Peter is now in this text going to give commands to these Christians, but the “therefore” indicates that the commands are based upon what God has done and not meant to earn something from God

**II. God’s Commands**

- We are to keep God’s commands as Christians
  - It’s not legalism or earning our salvation
  - It’s the obligation we have because of who God has made us by what He has done
- When God makes a covenant, He freely chooses His people, makes Himself their God—regardless of anything they are or have done—and fully gives Himself to them
- And when Jesus saves us, it’s not a business deal—it’s a wedding
  - He has given Himself to His people freely and fully—and by the power of the Spirit, His people give themselves to Him freely and fully
- It’s only after Christ has raised you from your spiritual death that He commands you to walk in newness of life
  - This is how God orders things
- If Jesus has saved you, you keep His commandments
  - You are not earning your salvation
  - You are living as if your salvation is real, because it is real

**III. Fully Set your Hope on Jesus’ Return**

- New Testament hope is not wishful thinking.
  - It’s complete certainty of the outcome in the future.
  - If your hope is fully set on Jesus’ return, it can’t be set somewhere else

**IV. Be Holy as God is Holy**

- God is Holy
  - He is pure, and righteous, and just
  - There is nothing evil or corrupt about God at all
  - And because He is our God, He commands us to be like Him

**V. Fear God your Father**

- The fear of God that we are to have as Christians actually springs out of our love for God
- Sin is no laughing matter to be taken lightly