

Therefore, Be...

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INTRODUCTION

Let us consider various “Therefore be...” admonitions found in Sacred Scripture. In such statements, the adverb “therefore” primarily means “for this reason; consequently,” and the verb “be” introduces or expresses an imperative obligation. In other words, based upon what has been previously said, we should act in the prescribed manner.

BE CAREFUL & OBEDIENT

Having delivered God’s commandments, statutes and ordinances to Israel, Moses said, “You shall therefore be careful to do them with all your heart and with all your soul” (Deut. 26:16-19, esp. vs. 16).

BE WHOLLY DEVOTED

In dedicating the temple, Solomon echoed the words of Moses: “Let your heart therefore be wholly devoted to the Lord our God, to walk in His statutes and to keep His commandments, as at this day” (1 Kings 8:54-61, esp. vs. 61).

BE ON THE ALERT

Foreshadowing His promised return, Jesus said, “Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming” (Matt. 24:42-51, esp. vs. 42; cf. Mark 13:33-37, esp. vs. 36). Warning the Ephesian elders of spiritual dangers, Paul said, “Therefore be on the alert...” (Acts 20:28-32, esp. vs. 31).

BE STEADFAST

Based upon our hope of the resurrection, Paul said, “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Cor. 15:50-58, esp. vs. 58).

BE LIKE ABRAHAM

Contrasting humble faith in God with prideful faith in self, Paul said, “Even so Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness. Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham” (Gal. 3:6-9, esp. vs. 7; cf. Gen. 15:5-6; Rom. 4:1-8; 16-24, James 2:21-24).

BE IMITATORS OF GOD

Writing to the Ephesians, Paul said, “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children...” (Eph. 5:1-5, esp. vs. 1). A few verses later, he added, “Therefore be careful how you walk...” (Eph. 5:15-21, esp. vs. 15).

BE PATIENT

Similarly, James says, “Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord” (James 5:7-11, esp. vs. 7).

BE OF SOUND JUDGMENT

Offering an assortment of admonitions, Peter said, “The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer” (1 Pet. 4:7-11, esp. vs. 7).

BE ZEALOUS AND REPENT

Sternly rebuking the church at Laodicea, the Lord said, “Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent” (Rev. 3:19-22, esp. vs. 19).

CONCLUSION

The people of God enjoy great privileges and also have great responsibilities (2 Cor. 7:1). Are we showing due diligence (Heb. 6:11-12)?