I. Introduction.
   A. Text: 1 Peter 1:13-16.

   B. The gospel teaches us to say no to others and worldly passion for self-control and godly lives in the present. Hope and holiness are interwoven.

   C. Both “holiness” and “Lord” occurs between 600 and 700 times in the Bible.

II. Holiness is moral blamelessness. (1 John 2:1; John 8:29)
   A. God is serious about holiness. It is the fruit of holiness. (Hebrews 12:14)

   B. God hates sin. (Zechariah 8:17)

III. Reasons we are not more holy.
   A. We simply have not committed ourselves to fully obeying God. (1 John 2:1)

   B. We have a wrong view of the consequences of sin. (Psalm 51:4)

   C. We do not take some sin seriously. (Luke 16:10; Song of Solomon 2:15)

IV. God has made provision for us to walk in holiness, but he has given us responsibility of doing the walking.
   A. Our responsibility: in the Spirit we are to put to death the deeds of the flesh. (Romans 8:13)

      1. We must do it, but we must do it through the Spirit. (Philippians 4:13)

      2. We are to destroy our sinful deeds. We must have...

         a. Conviction and convictions about specific areas of life. (Romans 13:7)

         b. Commitment.

         c. Personal discipline. We structure our lives to be holy. (1 Timothy 4:7; 2 Timothy 3:16)

         d. Perseverance. (Proverbs 24:16)

V. Conclusion. (John 15:10-11)
Application questions:

1. What reason for a lack of holiness resonates with you?

2. How can we be responsible for holiness and yet not credited for achieving it?

3. What can you do differently this week to structure your life for holiness? Explain.