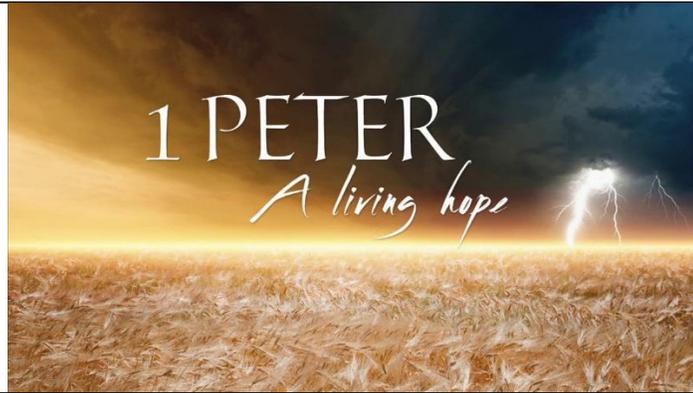


1 Peter

a living hope

30 May 2021

1 Peter 3:8-22



Text

V	NIV	NET
8	Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.	Finally, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, affectionate, compassionate, and humble.
9	Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.	Do not return evil for evil or insult for insult, but instead bless others because you were called to inherit a blessing.
10	For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech.	For the one who wants to love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from uttering deceit.
11	They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it.	And he must turn away from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it.
12	For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." [Psalm 34:12-16]	For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and his ears are open to their prayer. But the Lord's face is against those who do evil. [Psalm 34:12-16]
13	Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good?	For who is going to harm you if you are devoted to what is good?
14	But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." [Isaiah 8:12]	But in fact, if you happen to suffer for doing what is right, [or righteous] you are blessed. But do not be terrified of them or be shaken. [Isaiah 8:12]
15	But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,	But set Christ apart as Lord in your hearts and always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks about the hope you possess. [the hope in you]
16	keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.	Yet do it with courtesy and respect, keeping a good conscience, so that those who slander your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame when they accuse you.
17	For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.	For it is better to suffer for doing good, if God wills it, than for doing evil.
18	For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.	Because Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, to bring you to God, by being put to death in the flesh but by being made alive in the spirit.
19	After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits—	In it he went and preached to the spirits in prison,
20	to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water,	after they were disobedient long ago when God patiently waited in the days of Noah as an ark was being constructed. In the ark a few, that is eight souls, were delivered through water.
21	and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,	And this prefigured baptism, which now saves you—not the washing off of physical dirt but the pledge of a good conscience to God—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
22	who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.	who went into heaven and is at the right hand of God with angels and authorities and powers subject to him.

Group Discussion

Read 1 Peter 3:8-17

- Peter gives some clear guidelines for living with a clear conscience.
 - What does he call us to do?
 - What does he say we are not to do?
 - What stands out to you most about these commands? In what way do these characteristics mark your life? Is there a particular area where God is encouraging you to grow?
- Peter challenges believers to not respond to evil with evil, but to respond to evil with blessing. There are three possible ways to respond to those around them:
 - Respond with evil when others do good to you.
 - Respond with evil when people treat you evil, and good when people treat you good.
 - Respond with good when people treat you with evil or good.
 - Why do you think that God wants His people to respond to evil with good, with blessings?
- What is the value or significance of Peter quoting from **Psalm 34** and **Isaiah 8**?
- According to **v15** in what way can you give for “*the reason for the hope that you have.*”

A couple of other Old Testament passages that relate to what Peter is saying.

- **Proverbs 24:21-22** *If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you.*
- **Jeremiah 29:4-7** *This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: “Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”*

Read 1 Peter 3:18-22

- **Verse 18** is a summary of the gospel. Do you think this is a good summary?
- What is Peter saying about Jesus in **verse 19**?
- What was the condition of the world and human hearts in Noah’s day (**Genesis 6:5-8**)?
 - How is our world today like the world of Noah’s day?
 - How does the image of the flood in Noah’s day remind of the need for people to have a relationship with Jesus?
 - Many people see Jesus as a bright orange life jacket – they know he is out there, but their sense of a need for him is not urgent. What does this passage teach about the purpose of Jesus’ death and resurrection?
- C.S Lewis wrote: “There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.”
 - Which error do you believe to be more prevalent in the North American church today?
 - How does this passage correct both of these errors?
- This passage teaches us that the suffering we go through is not the last word for believers.
 - Are you facing any situations currently that you find it difficult to see a positive end to?

Praying For One Another

Pray that each one in your group would live out the real hope of resurrection as we go about our life this week?

This Week

Read 1 Peter 4 in preparation for next week