

Bible Study

1 Peter 3:8-22

Opening Question:

1. If someone asked you why you had hope in life, how would you answer them?

Read 1 Peter 2:8-22

Discussion Questions

1. In V8 Peter lists five key qualities that every Christian should have. Describe each in your own words.
 - (a) What stands out to you most
 - (b) Did they come naturally to Peter? (Mark 8:31-33)
 - (c) Do they come naturally to you?
2. Compare verses 8-12 with Romans 12:10-16. What are the key virtues that both Peter and Paul see as building up Christians in community?
 - (a) How does this challenge our western commitment to individualism?
 - (b) What would some examples of “blessing” be?
 - (c) How can we navigate the path between being committed to unity and dealing with people/teaching that is unbiblical?
4. Why did Peter write about suffering for what is righting V14? (Matthew 5:10-12)
How could this be a blessing?
5. Why do you think Peter speaks of “sharing the reason for our hope” in verse 15, then “keeping a clear conscience” in verse 16?
6. What does Peter say about Christ’s death in 3:18? (Hebrews 9:28, 7:27, Romans 5:1-2)

7. Why do you think Peter uses the example of Noah in v19-21?
- (a) What do you think it means that Jesus preached to the imprisoned spirits at the time of Noah (3:19)?

 - (b) What is the significance of water baptism for the believer according to these verses? (Romans 6:3-4)
8. Who does Peter say is in submission to Christ? For how long? (Ephesians 1:21, 6:12, Hebrews 1:4)

Thought Points

- Peter's purpose in this section of the letter is to sum up the kind of lifestyle which epitomises
- Peter is challenging his readers to live life in stark contrast to the world in which they live.
- Righteous life, Christian maturity and a ready defence
- Spiritual growth is often long and painful. Like human maturity, spiritual maturity comes from stretching understanding, exploring reality and applying learning to life. As human parents rejoice in their children maturing into productive members of society, so God rejoices when His children mature into productive members of the Kingdom of God. Unfortunately many Christians grow old in their faith without ever growing up and maturing in faith.
- Peter challenges believers to not respond to evil with evil, but to respond to evil with blessing.
- Knowing that Christ gave the ultimate sacrifice (His own life) to redeem us from sin, this should motivate us in turn to love the people around us.
- Peter makes it clear that the words and actions of spiritually mature believers will provoke responses from the world around us; but that we should not be surprised when these responses are not always positive.
- Christ has triumphed over his enemies; therefore we can rejoice knowing that our ultimate vindication comes through Him
- Through baptism is an outward representation on an inward faith. Salvation is through our appeal to God for his grace in our lives; an internal dying to sin, and a regeneration through the work of the Holy Spirit.
- Salvation is by grace through faith.

Extra Reading

Read John 17:20-23, Acts 4:32 and Philippians 2:1-8, Luke 10:25-37, James 3:1-12, Psalm 34:1-8,12-16, 1 Samuel 19:1-10, Ephesians 4:11-13, 1 Timothy 5:1-2, Mark 8:31-33, Romans 12:10-16, Hebrews 9:28, 7:27, Romans 5:1-2

Personal Reflection:

- Is there something in this passage which God is stretching you and using to encourage you to grow in your faith?
- How will you prepare to be ready to give an answer for your faith?