

I Peter 3:8-22 - Part 2

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 7-11-18

Witness in Word (vv. 13-15)

Contrasting statements in vv. 13-14

- V. 13 - echoes of Psalm 34; Psalm 56; Rom. 8:31 → confidence in the Lord's _____ for the righteous
- V. 14 - “**but...**” the possibility/likelihood of unjust suffering?
 - No _____ harm can be done to the righteous
 - Cf. John 16:33; 17:15
- Suffering is not the _____ of blessing, but its _____
 - Cf. Matt. 5:10-12; II Cor. 12:10
 - The blessing of self-giving love = _____

V. 15 - prepare to endure suffering AND discover in it an opportunity for _____

- “sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts” - set him apart as the only one to fear
 - Contrast Peter in Luke 22:61 vs. Acts 4:19; 5:29
 - Peter _____ the fear of men by _____ the fear of the Lord (cf. Matt. 10:28ff.)

Peter embraces (and quotes in v. 14) Isa. 8:12b-13

- Do not fear the things the world fears (or as the world fears), but trust in God
- Absence of fear → bearing witness - “always being ready to make a defense”
 - Confrontations become occasions for witness
 - “Fear” of the Lord + “hope” in the Lord = _____ in the face of persecution
 - Hope is the form that faith takes under the threat of suffering/death
 - Hope is the courage for our witness as well as its content
 - Not the start of a new sentence, rather (lit.): “Set apart the Lord, the Christ, ready always for an answer...”
 - Former is the ground/basis for the latter

“yet with gentleness and reverence”

- _____ of life is as important as _____ in word
 - Cf. Eph. 4:15 - “speak the truth in love”
- A prideful/arrogant heart always undercuts the mouth’s witness

Witness in Life (vv. 16-18)

“keep a good conscience”

- Conscience: “inner awareness of the moral quality of one’s actions”
- For Christians: the presence of the HS in the heart brings the conscience before God
- Peter speaks of the clear conscience of _____
 - Ongoing confidence that comes from right living → clean hands and a pure heart inform/empower effective witness
 - Suspicious observers are quick to detect Christian hypocrisy
 - Holiness → a clean life before God and man, “so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.”

V. 18 - the Lord who forgives also makes us new creations, so that by grace we may show in our lives the reality of his salvation

The Victory of Christ’s Suffering (vv. 18-22)

Presenting the suffering of Christ the _____

- The saving power of both Christ’s death AND resurrection
 - 2:21-24 → Christ’s meekness in suffering
 - Here → Christ the Conqueror, our victory
- He has conquered, gone to be with the Father, and takes us with him

Giving _____ to Christians who are enduring suffering/persecution

- Days of Noah: Evil was great, number of righteous fewer, yet God was still in _____
 - Postponed judgement, provided grace, and delivered the faithful
- An anticipatory “_____” of his final salvation in Christ (v. 21)
 - ἀντίτυπον (an-teet'-oo-pon) - an antitype which fulfills a type (predictive symbol)
 - Connotes the exactness of correspondence between the stamp and the die
 - Noah’s ark, Exodus = symbols of a greater events to come.
- Note: Not saved “from” water, but “_____”
 - Salvation not as deliverance from _____!
 - The water delivered them from the _____ of their generation
 - Cf. the Red Sea - Israel brought through the waters
 - Through Christ, God is not just saving us from final judgment, but from the presence and power of sin.
 - Christ = not only victor over evil in the abstract, but _____