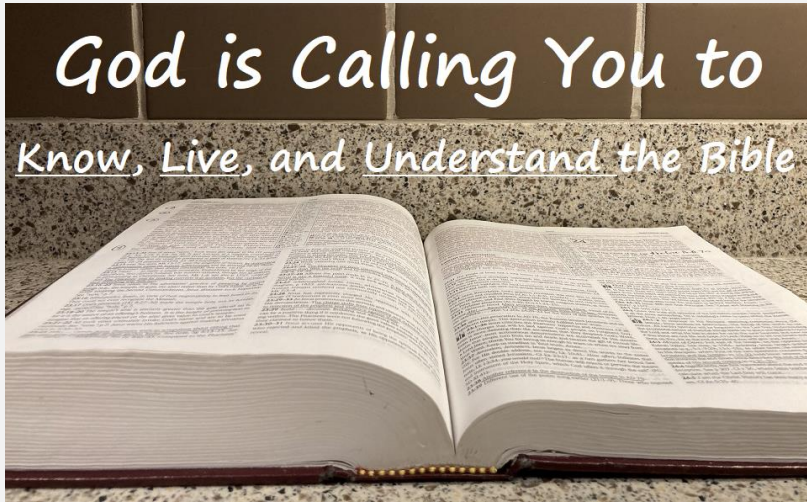


Sixth Sunday of Easter – 2023

Saturday, 5/13 at 4:00 | Sunday, 5/14 at 9:00



Text: 1 Peter 3:8-22 NAS 1995

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: We are studying through selected parts of **1 Peter**.

Today, we are entering **chapter 3**. This sermon will begin with **verse 8**, *but I urge all couples to study through vv. 1-7:*

- How believing wives should live to win over their unbelieving husbands.
- How husbands should treat their wives.

We now continue with **1 Peter 3:8**:

1. **Live Like Jesus:** <sup>8</sup> **To sum up, all of you** [*not just wives and husbands, but all of you*] **be harmonious** [*of one mind*], **sympathetic** [*understanding*], **brotherly** [*having brotherly love*], **kindhearted** [*compassionate*], and **humble in spirit** [*courteous*]; <sup>9</sup> **not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.**

2. **Stay in a Good Place:** A quote from **Psalm 34:12-16:**

- a. How to receive good days: <sup>10</sup> For, “**THE ONE WHO DESIRES LIFE, TO LOVE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, [HE:]**
  - i. **MUST KEEP HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT.**
  - ii. <sup>11</sup> **...MUST TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD;**
  - iii. **...MUST SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT.**
- b. Why such things are necessary: <sup>12</sup> **FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE TOWARD THE RIGHTEOUS [those who trust in the Messiah], AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER, BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL [who are unrepentant].”**

3. **Eagerly Do God’s Will:**

- a. <sup>13</sup> **Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous [eager] for what is good? // Only godless people.**
- b. <sup>14</sup> **But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness [because of your saving connection to Jesus], you are blessed. // Such suffering shows we are in Christ now and will be blessed forever!**
- c. **AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION [threats], AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED [disturbed, unsettled], <sup>15</sup> but sanctify [set apart] Christ as Lord in your hearts [letting Him alone reign supreme], always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you [the certainty that in Christ you have God’s gifts of forgiveness and eternal life], yet [do so] with gentleness [humility] and reverence [respect (disagree—yes, disrespect—no)]; // And when Christ is the**

Lord of our lives, *then we will share Him in ways that are* ✦certain, ✦loving, ✦humble, and ✦respectful.

- d. **<sup>16</sup> and keep a good conscience** [*an inner awareness that you are striving to do what is pleasing to God*] **so that in the thing in which you are slandered** [*spoken of as being evil*], **those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.** <sup>17</sup> **For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.** // Suffering will touch each of our lives. When we do wrong, *our Father disciplines us for our good.* When we do right and suffer, *our Father has another purpose – so let us patiently endure.*

#### 4. **Understand the Suffering and Victory of Christ:**

- a. **Jesus, our perfect substitute:** <sup>18</sup> **For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the just for the unjust*, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;** // Jesus received our sins and our punishment. Then, *after He laid down His life*, His spirit went to paradise!
- b. **Jesus proclaimed His victory in hell:** <sup>19</sup> **...He went** [*after His body was raised, but before He showed Himself to believers on earth*] **and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison,** <sup>20</sup> **who once were disobedient** [*persistently refused to repent*], **when the patience of God kept waiting** [*for them to repent*] **in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.** // When people persistently refuse to repent, *they think they are right.* Jesus clarified to those in the prison of hell that *they were wrong.* Right now, God is

calling all unrepentant ones in this world to ▶be open to His word, ▶love His truth, and ▶repent!

5. **Understand the Flood --- Baptism Connection:**

<sup>21</sup> **Corresponding to [God's saving of Noah and his family], baptism now saves you-- not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience-- through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.**

a. The work of the LORD:

- i. Through the flood He washed away **evil**.
- ii. Through baptism He washes away **sin**.

b. The power of baptism:

- i. It comes from the Holy Trinity: ▶The Father works ▶by the Spirit through the water and the word ▶to clothe the person in the perfect life of Jesus!
- ii. A means through which God has chosen to save:  
**Titus 3:5** “[God the Father] saved us... by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit...”

**Let Us Pray:** Dear Father, *TYSM for Your holy word!* Help us to continually know it, live it, and be equipped to share it!

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