

LESSON 33: 1 PETER 3-5
OCTOBER 4, 2017

OVERVIEW

- . Christian marriage – 1 Peter 3:1-7
- . The place of suffering in the Christian life – 1 Peter 3:8-22
- . Living for God – 1 Peter 4:1-19
- . Words for elders and young men – 1 Peter 5:1-14

CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE – 1 PETER 3:1-7

- . The pattern of wives being subservient to husbands was a common practice in Greek and Roman households of the time
 - . However, Peter is urging a pattern of life based on the example of Jesus Christ
 - . Just like Jesus submitted to God's will, he is calling on wives to submit to husbands and for husbands to be considerate of wives
- . God's word to wives – 1 Peter 3:1-6
 - . Among Christians there is to be a mutual submission each to the other
 - . "Submit to one another out of reverence to Christ" – Ephesians 5:21
 - . Nothing by either can ever be inconsiderate or heavy handed
 - . Peter is writing about how the home is best served when the husband is the head of the home
 - . In these verses Peter is writing about a home where the wife is a Christian and the husband is not
 - . As a result the wife might face persecution by the husband
 - . By submitting to him and showing love and compassion, she might win him over to Christ
 - . Peter is emphasizing that actions here will speak louder than words
 - . He is also reminding women of their inner beauty and to put the emphasis on that inner beauty
 - . Peter uses the example of Sarah and how she submitted herself to Abraham
 - . She refers to Abraham as her master – Genesis 18:12
- . God's words to husbands – 1 Peter 3:7
 - . Husbands are to be considerate of wives and treat them with respect as the weaker partner
 - . The weakness he is talking about here is a physical weakness, not an intellectual weakness

- . He warns husbands that if they do not treat their wives appropriately, God will not readily hear and answer their prayers

THE PLACE OF SUFFERING IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE – 1 PETER 3:8-22

- . Christian behavior in the midst of unjust suffering or persecution
 - . Five characteristics that should be displayed by Christians in all situations
 - . Harmony, Sympathy, love, compassion, humility
 - . Despite the degree of our suffering, displaying these virtues will bring blessing to others
 - . Do not repay evil with evil but with kindness
 - . He recites the 34th Psalm where David is calling us to turn from evil desires and seek peace and pursue it
 - . David wrote these words while being pursued by Saul
- . God's blessing – 1 Peter 3:13-22
 - . Suffering is a blessing in itself because it shows that we are Christ's and belong to Him
 - . Suffering is also a blessing because of the opportunity it gives to testify to God's grace both by words and by life
 - . Peter's words here foreshadow a time yet to come when Christians will suffer as a result of their faith
 - . When this happens Christians are not to think of it as a disaster but as an opportunity for testifying for the hope they have
 - . The best way to be a reflection of God's love is through our actions during those times of great suffering or persecution
 - . Our actions will always be more powerful than our words
- . A puzzling passage – 1 Peter 3:19-21
 - . This has been a puzzling passage that has produced many explanations over the years
 - . One interpretation is that Jesus descended into hell after his crucifixion and there proclaimed His victorious death to the righteous who had been awaiting His coming and who were delivered from the "prison house"
 - . One of the problems with this interpretation is that it is hard to understand why these believers should be described as spirits who disobeyed
 - . A second interpretation is that Jesus preached in the spirit through Noah to those of Noah's generation
 - . The problem with this interpretation is that these people would have been living, not already in "the prison" of hell
 - . However we are to understand this, the emphasis of the passage is on Christ's victory over sin and death
 - . The last sentence of this section reminds us of Jesus' current exalted position in heaven where all is placed in submission to Him

LIVING FOR GOD – 1 PETER 4:1-11

- . Our sinful life in the past – 1 Peter 4:1-6
 - . Peter talks about our sinful past being consumed by six vices
 - . Debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry
 - . Those who live this way think it strange that Christians prefer not to join them in their revelry
- . Our calling to live for God now – 1 Peter 4:7-11
 - . Now Peter lists the ways Christians should live
 - . Be clear minded and self controlled
 - . Love each other deeply
 - . Offer hospitality and speak clearly
 - . Thinking, loving, serving and speaking

WORDS FOR ELDERS AND YOUNG MEN – 1 PETER 5:1-14

- . Words for elders
 - . Be overseers of God's flock, not because they must, but willingly
 - . Peter's tone is one that is appealing to them not commanding
 - . Elders need to be shepherds who love their flock
- . Words for young men
 - . For those young men who are going to be future leaders, for now they need to be submissive
 - . Be humble, something young men are not inclined to be
- . Words for everyone
 - . Although he is talking specifically to a certain group, these words of wisdom apply to all Christians
 - . We are to be submissive to all in authority and be humble
- . Peters ends with a warning to all to be careful of Satan who prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour
 - . He is a dangerous foe but we are not to fear him for God is more powerful and will strengthen us in our suffering and bring us through to glory

NEXT LESSON: OCTOBER 18, 2017: 2 PETER AND JUDE