

1 Peter 3:8 - 12

Experiencing Victory in a Hostile World

“... a primer for winning the war that really matters”
At the End of the Day... or When It Is All Said and Done...

Round-table Questions / Exercises

Choose a leader at your table to play the role of facilitator for the following questions.

Please be prepared to share with the larger group...

1. If you were here last week, share a few insights about what you learned about applying submission in our homes?
2. Read 1 Peter 3:8-12. If you were asked to characterize this passage, what would you say is its primary purpose and intent?
3. What should be the goal of our lives according to the beginning of verse 10? How does Peter say we can realize it?
4. Read John 10:10. Describe what abundant life is and feels like? Have you experienced it before? What are some of the thieves in our lives that rob us of experiencing abundant life on a regular basis?
5. Read 2 Chronicles 16:9. According to it and verse 12, what should be our motivation and why?

Today's Learning Objectives:

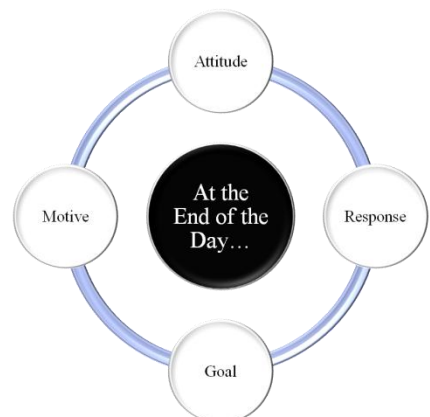
That we understand Peter's admonition of how we can savor abundant _____ and experience " _____ " even though we live in the midst of a growing tide of hostility, this ever-present darkness and ominous storm clouds on the horizon

1 Peter 3:8-12

8 To sum up, let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; 9 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. 10 For, "Let him who means to love life and see good days refrain his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking guile. 11 And let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears attend to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

Introduction (8a)

- Examples of people who pursued the "good life" in all the wrong places from history? From Scripture?
- *"To sum up..." (to de telos) (8a)* – could be translated by the single word "
_____"
 - It does not signal the end of the letter, but the _____ of this current section
 - It is the same as someone saying *"at the end of the day"* or *"when it is all said and done"*
- In the midst of trials and/or suffering for doing what is right, be it from those in authority such as public officials, employers, or a disobedient spouse, we've been called to _____ differently as believers in Jesus...



Have the Right _____ (8b)

“Let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit”

According to Peter, five spiritual virtues comprise a God-honoring attitude...

- *“Harmonious”* – means *“same _____”* or to commit one’s self to that which will produce inward unity of the heart with one another (Philippians 1:27-28)
- *“Sympathetic”* – means *“sharing the same _____”* or to be united in truth but also to enter into the _____ of others, even those we don’t know (James 5:11)
- *“Brotherly”* – means *“to love”* and refers to the _____ among people who are closely related such as brothers and sisters in Christ
- *“Kindhearted”* – refers to one’s internal organs and is translates *“bowels”* or *“intestines”*. These are our deep _____ and _____ which arise from the compassion that God has shown to us. (Ephesians 4:32)
- *“Humble in spirit”* – this is actually one word and it means *“humble-minded”* and is the most essential, all-encompassing virtue in the Christian life. (Philippians 2:3)
- God says our collective joy is becoming _____ when...
 - We are knit together in truth
 - We are sensitive to the pain of fallen sinners
 - We sacrifice for each other
 - We are compassionate instead of harsh
 - We are humble like Jesus

Have the Right _____ (9)

“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”

- *“not returning evil for evil”* – refers to bad _____ aimed at us
- *“or insult for insult”* – refers to bad _____ aimed at us
- *“but giving a blessing instead”* – as believers, when we are reviled, we are called to retaliate by giving a _____ instead (1Corinthians 4:12)
- *“blessing”* is a word from which the English word “_____” derives itself from

- To “eulogize” makes a person speak well of or praise others
- How can we “*bless people instead*” when they treat us with hostility?

(Romans 12:17-21)

- _____ them unconditionally
- _____ for them
 - Their salvation if they don’t know Jesus
 - Their sanctification if they are a believer
- _____ them
- Express _____ for them
- “*for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing*” – we as believers have freely received the divine, eternal and unmerited blessing or gift of complete _____ of an un-payable debt by God
 - My granting forgiveness to anyone should be easy in light of how small that is compared to God’s greatness and my offense of Him!

Have the Right _____ (10-11)

“For, let him who means to love life and see good days refrain his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking guile. And let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it.”

- “*For, let him who means to love life and see good days*” – Peter’s admonition is that we, as believers, should have as our goal the desire to savor abundant _____ and experience “_____” ... what are those and how can we do that?
- “*Refrain his tongue from evil*” – Peter says we need to keep from _____ verbally to hostility, evil or insults
- “*... and his lips from speaking guile*” – “*guile*” is “*deceit*”
 - We must be committed to truth
 - Understand that “*what is in the well will come up in the _____*” (Matthew 12:34)
- Peter provides us three commands from Psalm 34:14 for us to follow to help us “*taste life and see good days*”:

- *“And let him turn away from _____”* – this is a strong rejection of all appearances of sin (Proverbs 3:6; 16:6, 17; Romans 12:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:22)
- *“Do _____”* – do what is excellent in quality or that which at its very core is right
- *“Let him seek _____ and pursue it.”*
 - *“Seek”* and *“pursue”* both convey an intensity and aggressiveness of action! Similar to a hunter vigorously tracking down his prey
 - *“Peace”* – speaks of a condition without hostility that produces joy and happiness. As believers we are to hunt harmony down! We are to be on the offensive and be the first movers towards it aggressively!!!

Have the Right _____ (12)

“For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears attend to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil”

- *“For the eyes of the Lord”* – Speaks of God’s sovereign and special _____ and _____ over His children (Job 28:24; Proverbs 5:21)
- *“Are upon the righteous”* – All of His attention is “_____” us as believers; He is omniscient and fully aware or intimately acquainted with every detail in our lives (Psalm 139:1-6)
 - The motive of our lives should be to _____ a Father who has done nothing but demonstrate that He is ALL for us!!!
- *“And His ears attend to their prayer”* – This is why His attention is on us... so that he fully hears and is fully engaged in responding to our “_____” or “_____” (Psalm 5:2; Philippians 4:6; I John 5:14-15)
 - He always stands ready, willing, able to answer
- *“But the face of the Lord”* – if “eyes” refers to watchfulness, then, in this context, His “face” refers to _____! It represents God’s anger and displeasure
- *“Is against those who do evil”* – His wrath and condemnation are against those who deliberately disobey His Word (Revelation 6:16)