

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I PETER 3:13-22

Lesson 12

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review I Peter 3:8-12. In what specific way have you had an opportunity this week to apply this passage to your life?

2. Maintaining a Christian witness in an unbelieving world is at the center of this week's lesson. Through our study of I Peter 3:13-22 we will be challenged by Peter's instruction and inspired by Christ's example. Read the following paragraphs and record a phrase or verse that stands out to you:
 - a. I Peter 3:13-17

 - b. I Peter 3:18-22

3. Prepare your mind and heart to receive the most from your study this week by writing a prayer asking the Lord to help you understand, apply and retain what you learn. Write your prayer here.

...be ye doers of the Word...
James 1:22a

SECOND DAY: Read I Peter 3:13,14

1. At the time this letter was written it was dangerous to be a believer in Jesus Christ. Christians were suffering for their faith. I Peter 3:13-22 was written to encourage believers to overcome their fear and maintain their witness. What do you learn about this from verses 13,14?
 - a. In the context of these verses, how does Hebrews 13:5b,6 strengthen your faith?

2. The word *good* is used three times in I Peter 3:13-16. Briefly explain what it means to *be followers of that which is good.* verse 13b
 - a. Verse 13b in The Amplified Bible reads: *zealous followers of that which is good.* How does the word *zealous* strengthen this instruction?

3. Read I Peter 3:14. It is possible to suffer for being a faithful Christian. Think about the phrase *happy are ye.* What does Matthew 5:10-12 add to this?
 - a. According to the following verses why should believers *be not afraid of their threats, nor be troubled:*
 - (1.) Psalm 118:6

 - (2.) Proverbs 29:25

4. When we think of *suffering* certainly *happy* is not a word that comes to mind. In the Greek the word translated *happy* means *blessed.* Why should we consider ourselves blessed when we *suffer for righteousness' sake?*

*I want to be a follower of Christ.
I want to be one of His disciples.
Tell me, what is the cost if I carry the cross?
I want to be a follower of Christ.
-selected*

THIRD DAY: Read I Peter 3:15-17

1. How often do you stop and meditate on the Lord's will for your life? Think about this: *Are you being the witness in the world that He has called you to be?* The verses we will study today, I Peter 3:15-17, teach us how to live the life that is a witness. Read verse 15a and define the word *sanctify*.
 - a. Explain how we *sanctify* the Lord God in our hearts.

2. Write the phrase in I Peter 3:15b that tells us what believers should be *ready* to do.
 - a. What should be the believer's attitude when doing this? verse 15c
 - (1.) Think about the way we are to share our hope: *with gentleness and respect* (verse 15c NIV). Why is a gentle and respectful answer when questioned about our faith a powerful witness?

3. Read I Peter 3:16,17. Write what you learn about a Christian's witness from verse 16a.
 - a. Why? Answer from verses 16b,17.
 - (1.) Record any additional insights you receive from I Peter 2:11,12.

4. What have you received through your study today that will help you be the witness the Lord wants you to be?

FOURTH DAY: Read I Peter 3:18-22

1. I Peter 3:18-22 is all about our Lord Jesus Christ. You will recall that the main focus of the previous verses has been on the Christian and the suffering that can accompany our witness. In I Peter 3:18 we find the greatest example of suffering for righteousness' sake. Gratefully consider Christ's suffering as you write verse 18 here phrase by phrase.

a. Jesus Christ suffered and died *once* for our sins – *the just for the unjust*. Why did He do this? Print your answer from verse 18b.

(1.) Express your love and gratitude to the Lord by writing a sentence of thanksgiving for this.

Challenge: The phrase *bring us to God* is a technical term which means *gain audience to the King*. With this in mind read Ephesians 2:18 and Hebrews 4:16. How do these verses speak to you?

2. There are different opinions on the meaning of I Peter 3:19,20. Pastor Chuck believes that Jesus, between His death and resurrection, announced salvation to the faithful followers of God who died before seeing God's promised Saviour (see Luke 16:19-31; Ephesians 4:8-10). These verses do not teach that those who reject Christ in this life are given a second chance after death. How does Hebrews 9:27 confirm this?

3. Think about the awesome characteristic of God revealed in I Peter 3:20. What does the *longsuffering of God* mean to you today?

4. Read I Peter 3:21. With this verse in mind read Romans 6:3-5 and summarize what water baptism represents.

FIFTH DAY: Read I Peter 3:22

1. Today we complete our study of I Peter 3 with a powerful verse about our risen Saviour. What do you learn about Him from I Peter 3:22? Selah


2. Contemplate what Christ is doing *on the right hand of God* as you write what the following verses reveal about this:
 - a. Romans 8:34b

 - b. Hebrews 9:24b

 - c. Share your response to this.

3. Focus on the phrase *angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto Him*. I Peter 3:22b How does Ephesians 1:20-22(23) expand your understanding of this?

4. How does knowing that Jesus has gone into heaven and is on the right hand of God minister to you today?

*And we all bow down,
kings will surrender their crowns
and worship Jesus.*
-selected 

SIXTH DAY: Review I Peter 3:13-22

1. What have you learned through your study this week of I Peter 3:13-17 that will help you be the witness God has called you to be?

2. In light of this week's lesson write what the following phrases say to you:
 - a. *followers of that which is good*

 - b. *suffer for righteousness' sake*

 - c. *be ready always to give an answer to every man*

 - d. *Christ also hath once suffered for sins*

3. Share a reason believers have hope in the midst of *suffering for righteousness' sake*.

4. In response to I Peter 3:18-22 record a way Jesus' example of suffering and His glory:
 - a. encourages you

 - b. inspires you

*In Christ alone I place my trust
and find my glory in the power of the Cross.
In every victory, let it be said of me
my source of strength, my source of hope is Christ alone.
-selected 🎵*