



# KING'S CHAPEL

## Daily Devotional - 1 Peter Study

Week 5 - Day 1

### Approaching God

**Read Psalm 34:11-16** - *"Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry. The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth."*

**Prayer:** *(From Psalms: the Songs of Jesus)* - "Father, if I want to love life, I have to love you - and loving you means doing your will with gladness. Shine your face on me - let me know your love today - so I can love you for who you are. Remind me that the only loss that is unbearable is to lose you and your presence. Amen."

### Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - 1 Peter 3:8-12

**Passage Introduction:** How does a Christian behave when surrounded by a world that doesn't understand what we're about and is potentially hostile? The answer comes in Peter's quotation from Psalm 34. *"Seek peace, and pursue it."* It may be hard to find, this peace we're supposed to be looking for, but we should hunt it down as you would hunt for a favorite book that you can't find. You should follow after as you would follow a dog that runs off in a busy town. Don't expect peace to come to you when you whistle. You have to do the work. You have to learn the new habit. You have to learn it because it will be all too easy to lapse into the way many people behave.

#### Study Tip:

Peter mentions 5 characteristics of the life that brings blessing in vs. 8. Circle them as you begin your reading. These are not virtues chosen at random. Like fingers on a hand they radiate together from one center and work together. The key to them all is the love of grace that reflects the love and compassion of Jesus Christ.

**1 Peter 3:8-12** - **8** Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. **9** Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. **10** For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; **11** let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. **12** For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

**Start with Engaging the Text:** Take a few minutes to highlight, circle, or underline key words. What words or ideas are repeated, related, compared, contrasted?

## Daily Study Questions

You may find it helpful to read through the commentary in “Resources for Further Study” at the end of today’s study to answer these questions.

### Questions for Study

- What is the first word of 3:8? \_\_\_\_\_ What does it tell you about what Peter is about to say? Is he introducing a new topic?
- To whom are his comments addressed?
- Peter lists five things we need to have to be able to relate rightly to one another. Write each of them below, along with a brief explanation. Use the NIV translation and a dictionary to help you
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.
- What rule for living does Peter give in vs. 9? How does the passage he quotes in vs. 3:10-12 reinforce his thought?

### Questions for Meditation & Application

- Which of the 5 things listed above from vs. 8 in the 3rd question above is hardest for you demonstrate to other believers? Which easiest? Why?
- What has impacted you most so far from this section on submission and authority? How has Peter challenged your view of what it means to submit to authority? What are the words of Peter asking of you personally?

### Close in Prayer:

**Rejoice:** What one truth can you rejoice in from today’s passage?

**Repent:** What one issue is God bringing to your attention that you can confess and repent of?

**Request:** What one request do you have in light of today’s passage?

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## Resources for Further Study

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1 Peter chapter 3 notes

### Commentary & Notes on 1 Peter 3:8-12

Peter is going to spend the remainder of his letter reminding us that we can faithfully endure unjust suffering because we stand on an unshakable foundation. Here, he is reminding us, first, that we will be rewarded for suffering unjustly (v 9-12), and second, that because we are united with Christ by faith, we will be vindicated (v 13-17). Once we understand this unshakable foundation, we will be armed to face Christian suffering in this world (4:1-6, 12-19) and stand firm in the true grace of God (5:6-14).

Unjust suffering can affect our life together as a church. It's not hard to imagine a scenario where we may lose our temper and lash out at a brother because of our circumstances. It is hard to be loving when you are suffering—hard to be unselfish when you are in pain. But the church is a community of believers where the divisions and hostilities of the world have been overcome and are, therefore, unwelcome. That is Peter's point in 3:8. He will return to deal with life together as a church in 4:7-11. But here, as he transitions from thinking about submitting to suffering, he calls us to maintain unity, by loving one another sympathetically and compassionately. As we seek to live this way within the church, we'll be shaped and enabled to live that way outside of it too—not to “repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling.” Instead, we will bless (3:9). Not only are we called not to curse; we are called actively to seek to bless.

As we seek to be a blessing, we will “obtain a blessing” (v 9). The word “obtain” is normally translated “inherit”—to receive something not earned or deserved. No family member is obligated to leave money or possessions to their living children, but when they do, it's a blessing. Likewise, the blessing we inherit from God is undeserved. Knowing this simple truth guards us against the false notion that we bless others in order to obtain an earthly blessing now—that our blessing of others earns God's blessing of us. Read “obtain” as “inherit” and we are pointed again to the future inheritance that Peter excited us about in 1:3-5—won through Christ's resurrection rather than earned through our behavior. Peter is saying: As you seek to bless even as you suffer, you can know that you are walking toward your inheritance. It is as you live the Christian life that you can look forward to life with Christ. We suffer well now not in order to be a Christian, but because we are a Christian—because we know our inheritance awaits us.

So Peter urges us from Psalm 34 to make every effort to produce the necessary works that give evidence of a sincere faith. He reminds us that “whoever desires to love life and see good days”—that is, inherit the blessing of our future salvation—will respond to suffering in a manner that reflects their new life in Christ. They will keep their tongues from evil and their lips from deceit; they will turn away from evil and do good and pursue peace (1 Peter 3:10-11). In every situation we are to pursue peace with others, including our persecutors. Again, Peter is concerned with our conduct as exiles because it will be the evidence brought forth at final judgment that we are, in fact, born again. Because we are born again, we must produce works that reflect this transformation, “for the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil” (v 12).

Are you bothered by the idea that we are to put effort into producing good works? I understand. I would never want to communicate anything that might lead someone to think that they can earn salvation through good works. That's the message of religion: You must do \_\_\_\_\_ in order

to please God. And if at the end of your life you have more good works than evil, then God may accept you into heaven/nirvana/paradise/ultimate reality. But this is not what Peter is saying. Peter has already reminded us that God is the one who caused us to be born again to a living hope (1:3). God has granted us the new birth to receive the eternal inheritance (1:4). Because we've been called out of the world's darkness (sin) to God's light (holiness) (2:9; 5:10), we have been delivered from the former passions of our flesh (1:14; 2:11; 4:2, 3). As a result, we are now God's obedient, holy children (1:14-17). Therefore, Peter calls us to live in a way that gives evidence that we are who we say we are, because God will reward those whose lives proved faithful, and judge those who remained in their sins (3:12). As we endure righteous suffering— blessing others, turning away from evil and doing good, pursuing peace—we can rest assured that God will bless us with our future inheritance.

Sanchez, Juan. ***1 Peter For You: Offering real joy on our journey through this world*** (God's Word For You). The Good Book Company.