



KING'S CHAPEL

Daily Devotional - 1 Peter Study

Week 5 - Day 2

Approaching God

Read Psalm 61:1-3 - *Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer. From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe.*

Prayer: Who are people that make you feel safe? What are places or things that bring a sense of security to you? David begins this prayer recognizing that above all else, only God came make him ultimately safe and secure in the deepest ways possible. Remember that security this morning in the person of Christ. Ask God to help you connect with the reality of Christ's work on your behalf, and to experience him as a *rock* and *strong tower*.

Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - 1 Peter 3:13-14

Passage Introduction: This week we are continuing to look at how and to whom all believers are called to submit even in the midst of persecution. How are we called to respond to suffering that results from doing good? Over the next couple days we'll be looking at the rest of 1 Peter 3 in small chunks along with passages that correspond with the theme Peter is calling us to consider. Our format will be slightly different as we will build in study questions along with the passages.

1 Peter 3:13-14 - 13 *Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? 14* *But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened."*

- At first glance, what would seem to be the answer to Peter's question in vs. 13?
- Specifically, what kind of suffering is Peter talking about in 3:14?
- When might doing good keep us from being persecuted? When might it cause us to be persecuted? Try thinking of an example of each situation.

Isaiah 8:12-13 - 12 *"Do not call conspiracy everything this people calls a conspiracy; do not fear what they fear, and do not dread it. 13* *The LORD Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread.*

- When Peter says, “Have no fear of them, nor be troubled” he is paraphrasing Isaiah 8:12-13. How do the verses in Isaiah add to your more complete understanding of Peter’s meaning?
- How do you think our fear of the Lord affect our fear of persecution?

Matthew 5:10-12 - 10 *Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11* *“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12* *Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

- Whose teaching is Peter paraphrasing in 1Peter 3:13-14? What similarities do you see between the two passages?
- Both Peter and Jesus say that when we are persecuted we will be blessed. In what ways might someone persecuted for her faith experience blessing in the midst of her suffering? Has this ever been your experience?

Passage Summary - 1 Peter 3:13-14

Peter, in order to provide assurance for the persecution Christians might face, asks a rhetorical question in verse 13: *“Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?”* He then answers his own question in verse 14: *“But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed.”* In other words, if our good works give evidence that we belong to God, and since God rewards those who belong to him with the inheritance his Son has won for them, then because we are zealous to produce good works, we will receive the promised inheritance. That means that there is no amount of harm that anyone can do to us that will forfeit our inheritance—not even death. No one can harm us, says Peter, because if and when we do suffer, we will be blessed with a great reward.

Since God is for us and will bless us, there is no reason to fear man, “nor be troubled” by any difficult circumstance we may face during our life on this earth (v 14). This is a truth that we need to cling to, to sing, to memorize, to meditate upon. Who can really harm us if God will bless us? No one! What can they take away from us if God will bless us? Nothing! We will likely suffer as Christians in this world, but that suffering is slight and temporary compared to the eternal inheritance that awaits us.

Close in Prayer:

What promises have you discovered today in your study that are worthy of meditation and praise? Close your time, by asking the Lord to help you find assurance in these promises so you can more fearlessly serve and share with others in your community.