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SPRING SERIES 2022 – WEEK 8

1 Peter 3:13-22: An Ark in the Storm

...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you...

– 1 Peter 3:15 ESV

- **Life in the midst of the storm**

- Peter is attempting to encourage those...
 - ...who were living as elect exiles – 1:1
 - ...who had been grieved by various trials – 1:5
 - ...whose faith was being tested by fire – 1:7
 - ...who were living as aliens and strangers – 2:11
- These people were under duress...
 - They're living in an anti-Christian culture
 - Some were literally slaves
 - Some women had unbelieving husbands
 - And they were all under Roman rule
- But Peter is attempting to encourage them

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. – 1 Peter 3:12 ESV

- God is watching
 - "...walk before me, and be blameless..."* – Genesis 17:1 ESV

Literally: "Conduct your life knowing I am watching"

- God is listening
 - "...if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, **God listens to him.**"* – John 9:31

ESV

- But is this really true?
- Consider what David wrote in Psalm 34

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all. – Psalm 34:19 ESV

- **No harm for the righteous**

*Now **who is there to harm you** if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed.* – 1 Peter 3:13-14 ESV

- What crossed their minds?
 - "My unbelieving husband!"
 - "My harsh and demanding master!"
 - "The Roman government!"
 - "My unbelieving neighbors!"
 - "The pagan religious authorities!"

- What did Peter have in mind?
 - ...you will be blessed*

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all. – Psalm 34:19 ESV

- This is not a guarantee of a trouble-free life
- The blessing of deliverance is **future**

*...he has caused us to be born again to **a living hope...to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you...*** – 1 Peter 1:3-4 ESV

- Glorification is our ultimate blessing
- **Trials** here – **treasure** later

"Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." – John 16:33 NLT

- **Honoring the Lord – defending your hope**

...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you... – 1 Peter 3:15 ESV

*But **set Christ apart as Lord in your heart...*** – New English Translation

*Instead, you must **worship Christ as Lord of your life.*** – New Living Translation

Lord – κύριος (*kyrios*)

– supreme in authority, master, controller

- Peter is talking about a different kind of master
 - He has been stressing **submission**
*Be **subject** for the Lord's sake...* – 2:13
 - He has even addressed literal **slaves**
*You who are slaves must submit to your **masters**...* – 2:18

Master – δεσπότης (*despotēs*)

– a master or Lord, an absolute ruler (despot)

- Both *kyrios* and *despotēs* are used in Scripture to refer to God and Jesus
- But Peter is trying to make a point
- Recognize Jesus as your ultimate **Master**
- **In your hearts!**
 - Consider what Jesus said to the Pharisees:

“...why do you, by your traditions, violate the direct commandments of God?...

“...you cancel the word of God for the sake of your own tradition.

*“You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote, ‘These people honor me with their lips, **but their hearts are far from me**. Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.’” – Matthew 15:3, 6-9 NLT*

- It all begins in the **heart**, not the head

*“Rather than obsessing over what men might do *to them*, they needed to start praising Jesus for all that He had done *for them*. They were sons and daughters of God. They were heirs of the Kingdom. They were forgiven, redeemed, reconciled, and had the Holy Spirit of God living in them. They had much for which to be grateful and plenty of cause to worship Jesus.” – Devotional™ on 1 Peter*

- And it should show up as **hope**
If Jesus is Lord in your heart...
you should have hope...
that others can see...
so, be prepared to explain it to them!

They will want to know...

“How can you love him after what he did?”
“Why do you always seem so peaceful?”
“How do you manage to stay so upbeat?”
“Why are you so quick to forgive?”

- **A most perplexing passage** – 1 Peter 3:18-22
 - Peter seems to be talking in riddles
 - ...the righteous for the unrighteous...*
 - ...put to death in the flesh...*
 - ...made alive in the spirit...*
 - ...proclaimed to the spirits in prison...*
 - ...when God’s patience waited in the days of Noah...*
 - ...while the ark was being built...*
 - The ark is the key to understanding this passage
 - Everything relates to Genesis 6-8
 - A story of divine judgment and redemption
 - That foreshadows Christ’s coming

The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. So the Lord said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.”

But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. – Genesis 6:5-7 ESV

- Righteous Noah
 - Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.*
 - Genesis 6:9 ESV

- Noah wasn’t sinless, but he was **faithful**
- He was an **alien and a stranger**
- And would become a “herald of righteousness”

*...he [God] did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, **a herald of righteousness**, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly.* – 2 Peter 2:5 ESV

- He **believed** the word of God
- He **proved it** by building the ark
- And **demonstrated** God’s righteousness
 - God **did not spare** the ancient world...*
 - he **brought a flood** upon the...ungodly...*

but **preserved** Noah...

- But how?
 - God provided a “vessel of salvation”
 - But Noah had to willingly enter it
 - When he did, he was “saved”
 - And was “brought safely through the waters”

“The water that flooded the earth and destroyed all life was the same water that floated the ark and spared the lives of Noah and his family.” –

Devotionary™ on 1 Peter

“The flood surrounded them but did not destroy them. Those who place their faith in Christ will survive the “flood waters” of life. Our guarantee of eternal life is secure in Christ who “has gone to heaven” and “is seated in the place of honor next to God.” And it is from heaven He will one day return for His bride, the church.” – *Devotionary™ on 1 Peter*

- **Discussion questions**

Discuss the parallels between Noah and the ark and Jesus’ provision of salvation for us?

How was this supposed to encourage Peter’s original audience?

Why should the blessing of our future inheritance be enough motivation to suffer for our faith in this life? In what ways do we reveal it is not enough?

Look closely at verse 22 and discuss why this should be an encouragement to us in this life?



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SPRING SERIES 2022 – WEEK 9 HOMEWORK

WEEK 9 – 1 Peter 4:1-6: Don't Lose Hope

In this passage, Peter pulls out the big guns, choosing to use Jesus as the consummate example of suffering for the sake of righteousness. In fact, according to Peter, Jesus Christ “suffered once for sins, **the righteous for the unrighteous**, that he might bring us to God” (1 Peter 3:18 ESV). As the sinless Son of God, Jesus willingly laid down His life so that sinful humanity might be reconciled to God. He offered Himself as the unblemished Lamb of God and allowed His blood to be poured out as the once-for-all sacrifice that would offer permanent cleansing from sin. And because Jesus accomplished the will of His Heavenly Father by giving His life as a ransom for many (Matthew 20:8), He was resurrected back to life and now sits “at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him” (1 Peter 3:22 ESV).

Peter uses the selfless sacrifice of Jesus as a powerful source of motivation for his readers. He reminds them, “since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude he had, and be ready to suffer, too” (1 Peter 4:1 NLT). Peter wanted them to know that their suffering for the sake of righteousness was actually proof of their reconciliation with God. They had aligned themselves with Jesus Christ and were suffering the consequences of their decision. They found themselves despised and hated by the world just as Jesus had been.

- Read 1 Peter 4:1-6. Write down any thoughts that jump out at you from these verses.
- Set aside some time to read pages 61-64 of Ken’s Devotionalary™ on 1 Peter.

- Let's be honest. Verse 1 seems like it contains a typo. What do you think Peter means when he states that "whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin?" If it helps, you might consider this quote from your Devotionary™ reading:
 "...when the believer suffers for doing what is right and responds in kindness, love, and patient endurance, he or she "has ceased from sin."

It appears that Peter is emphasizing our newfound ability to say no to sin because of the indwelling presence of the Spirit. What does that have to do with suffering for "doing good?"

- Read verses 2-4 again. Why do you think Peter had to mention the opposing lifestyles? What might this reflect about the behavior of the people to whom he wrote?

Why is it so necessary that our behavior stand out from the unbelieving world around us? What happens when we blend in and continue to live for "human passions?"

- In verses 5-6, Peter describes why our righteous behavior is so important. What are the implications of failing to live for Christ in this life?

Verse 6 seems to be talking about those who heard the gospel while alive and believed in it. Now, though they were physically dead, they were spiritually alive. How should this encourage us to share our faith more readily and regularly with the lost around us?

- Read the following quote, then spend a few minutes considering whether it is true of you
 - "Peter was emphasizing the reality that every human being will one day stand before God. His concern was that those to whom he wrote would remain faithful to their calling and committed to following the example of Jesus. Their future reward was secure. And while they might suffer in this life, they could remain confident in God's promise of their eternal security." – *Devotionary™ on 1 Peter*