

# JESUS - Our Living Hope

## A Study of the Book of 1<sup>st</sup> Peter

### *Lesson Five*

*Gold River Calvary Chapel*

*Women's Bible Fellowship*

*Fall 2021*



# **JESUS – Our Living Hope**

## **A Study of the Book of 1 Peter**

### **Gold River Calvary Chapel Women's Ministry**

#### **Lesson Five**

***Summary: This week we will learn about the testimony of our good works in the face of unjust suffering and the blessings we are promised when we respond like Jesus.***

#### ***Step One: Read the Word***

***“In Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:3***

This study uses the Christian Standard Bible translation (CSB), which is provided for you in each lesson in Step One. Please use that version to fill in blanks or answer questions, but you are encouraged to read as many translations as you like in order to get a fuller understanding of the scripture.

In Step One, try to determine the “who, what, where, when or how” of the passage. Look for words that are repeated often, such as “in Christ” or “joy” or “rejoice.” Circle any key words and underline phrases that stick out to you. Use the column to the right to jot down any notes, scripture references, or questions you might have.

Note: There is an example of how to do Step One in the Introduction to this study. You can also use the “Bible Study Aids” included in the Introduction to gain more understanding of the passage of scripture.

*Remember to always pray before you read God's Word, asking the Holy Spirit to open the scripture to your understanding.*



Complete Step One by reading and marking up 1 Peter 3:8-22, below.

<p><b>1 Peter 3:8-22</b> <b>Christian Standard Bible</b></p> <p><b>Do No Evil</b></p> <p><sup>8</sup> Finally, all of you be like-minded and sympathetic, love one another, and be compassionate and humble, <sup>9</sup> not paying back evil for evil or insult for insult but, on the contrary, giving a blessing, since you were called for this, so that you may inherit a blessing.</p> <p><sup>10</sup> For <b>the one who wants to love life and to see good days,</b> <b>let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit,</b> <sup>11</sup> <b>and let him turn away from evil and do what is good.</b> <b>Let him seek peace and pursue it,</b> <sup>12</sup> <b>because the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous</b> <b>and his ears are open to their prayer.</b> <b>But the face of the Lord is against those who do what is evil.</b></p>	
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### Undeserved Suffering

<sup>13</sup> Who then will harm you if you are devoted to what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer for righteousness, you are blessed. **Do not fear them or be intimidated,** <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. <sup>16</sup> Yet do this with gentleness and reverence, keeping a clear conscience, so that when you are accused,<sup>[f]</sup> those who disparage your good conduct in Christ will be put to shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

<sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, in which he also went and made proclamation to the spirits in prison <sup>20</sup> who in the past were disobedient, when God patiently waited in the days of Noah while the ark was being prepared. In it a few—that

<p>is, eight people—were saved through water.</p> <p><sup>21</sup> Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you (not as the removal of dirt from the body, but the pledge<sup>[k]</sup> of a good conscience toward God) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.</p>	
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## ***Step 2: Consider the Word***

**“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.” Colossians 3:16**

Re-read 1 Peter 3:8-22 and answer the questions below. (Remember to use the Christian Standard Bible (CSB) translation provided in Step One to answer).

1. See verse 8.
  - a. Look up the meanings of the heart attitudes and actions listed in verse 8 that Christians are to be:

like-minded:

sympathetic:

compassionate:

humble:

b. Peter begins verse 8 with the word “finally.” Having looked up the meanings of godly behaviors in (a), why do you think he summarized his teaching on godly submission with this verse?

2. In verse 9, Peter tells us that we are not to pay back evil for evil or insult for insult, but to instead give a blessing when we are badly treated or insulted.

a. What is our natural tendency when we are wronged? Do you think this increases evil or decreases it?

b. One commentator noted that to break the vicious chain of retaliation, at least one person must *voluntarily* endure evil without retaliation. Look back at 1 Peter 2:23. Who do we look like when we bear the sins of others against us without returning evil for evil?

c. Look at verse 9 again. How might our understanding that Jesus bore our sins on the cross when we did not deserve it help us to bear the sins of others against us without retaliating?

d. If our *natural* tendency is to return evil for evil when we are harmed (and maybe give a little more back than we received), who should we rely on for the *supernatural* strength and ability to return a blessing instead of evil?

e. Based on verse 9 and on the following verses, what will be the end result when we follow Peter's godly direction?

Verse 9:

Romans 12:17-21:

Luke 6:27-28 and 35:

3. In verses 10-12, Peter quotes Psalm 34, that includes a promised blessing.
  - a. List at least 3 things Christians must do if they wish to love life and see good days:
    - 1.
    - 2.
    - 3.



b. Why do you think peace must be “pursued?” (The Greek word used for “pursued” in this verse means: to seek, to enquire into, aim at, strive after.)

c. According to verse 17, what is the good promise that is ours when we obey and turn away from an evil tongue and evil behavior?

4. See verse 13.

a. Based on this verse, do you think there is a difference between being momentarily hurt through persecution and ultimately harmed? Explain.

b. What does God promise will be ours if we do suffer for righteousness? What additional insight might you get from 2 Corinthians 4:17-18?

c. How could this eternal perspective help a Christian to “not fear what they (persecutors) fear or be intimidated by them?” (Verse 14)

5. Verse 15 tells Christians to (sanctify, make holy, set apart) Christ in their hearts and be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks about the hope of our salvation in Christ.

a. What do you think the difference is between being defensive and defending our faith?

b. Which is the most natural to us when we are being challenged for our beliefs? Based on your experience, how effective is a defensive posture in winning others to Christ?

c. How might offering a defense with gentleness and respect give you a good conscience?

d. What promise does verse 16 give Christians who are slandered for their good works? What will happen to our ridiculers?

6. What does verse 17 tell us about the role of God's will in our suffering for doing good?
7. See verse 18. What did Christ do for the unrighteous? Why did he do it? According to Romans 3:9-10, who would be considered unrighteous?
8. Verses 19-22 are difficult verses to understand. In verse 19, Peter references an historical event his readers in the first century apparently had more common knowledge about, but is not clearly explained in scripture.

In verse 19, Peter states that Jesus, after his death on the cross and before his resurrection, made a public proclamation to the spirits in prison who were disobedient in the days of Noah.

Although we are not specifically told what Jesus proclaimed in verse 19, the Greek word for "proclaimed" here means: "to publish, proclaim openly something which has been done." Thus, it is unlikely that this proclamation was evangelical but rather a proclamation that these evil spirits were ultimately conquered at the cross (See Colossians 2:15).

Most commentators believe these are probably the disobedient angels described in 2 Peter 2:4-5 and Jude 1:6, but since we today cannot be sure what he is referencing, *we are better served in trying to understand the overall point Peter is trying to make here.*

- a. What do we learn about God's character in verse 20?

b. In verse 20, Peter gives us a picture of baptism by using the example of Noah and his family being saved from God's judgment through the flood by the ark. The water of the flood "washed away" the evil in a sense, and ushered in a new start. How do the following verses help in your understanding of what baptism symbolizes?

Romans 6:4:

Colossians 2:12:

c. Using scripture to interpret scripture, what does Ephesians 2:8-9 tell us about how we are saved – through faith in Jesus Christ or the rite of baptism? (See also John 6:28-29, John 16:30, Acts 8:36-37 and Acts 16:30 for just a few of the other verses on how we are saved).

How would such faith give us a "good conscience toward God" through Jesus' finished work on the cross? (Verse 21)

Given these other scriptures, what do you think Peter did not mean in verse 21 when he said we are saved through baptism?

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**Memory Verse:** “Do not fear them or be intimidated, <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.” (1 Peter 3:14-15)

Write the memory verse down below:

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### **Step 3: Walk in the Word**

**“...As citizens of heaven, live your life worthy of the gospel of Christ.” Philippians 1:27**

Re-read 1 Peter 3:8-22 and answer the questions below:

1. Sadly, we can all think of times when we have “returned evil for evil” because it is part of our fleshly nature. But we do have supernatural power through the Holy Spirit to do what Peter commands us to do in verses 8-9.

Think of a time when you have been the one who bore the injustice done to you by not returning evil for evil, or insult for insult, but instead, prayed for the person who harmed you. How did the outcome of that godly behavior compare to your natural response in terms of your relationship with that other person and your own peace?

2. Verses 9 and 14 promise us blessings if we are devoted to doing good, even if we suffer for it. Have you experienced these blessings in your own life when you patiently endured suffering? Share below.



Write the memory verse below:

**“Do not \_\_\_\_\_ them or be intimidated,<sup>15</sup> but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as \_\_\_\_\_, ready at any time to give a \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ who asks you for a reason for the \_\_\_\_\_ that is in you.” (1 Peter 3:14-15)**

What lesson or truth meant the most to you this week?

Journal a prayer below, thanking God for that truth.

## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

## This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for handwriting practice or general writing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

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