

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, August 23, 2009

Passage: 1Peter 3:13-22

Memory Passage: 3:15

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1Peter 3:13-17.** List some of the examples of “the good” that we are supposed to be passionately doing (v.2:11-3:12). Which of these stand out the most to you?

(b) Have you seen an instance of someone suffering for what is right? Have you ever had to suffer for what was right? How did that person or yourself respond to the injustice of it?

(c) Verse 14 says we are blessed. Verse 9 says we are to bless and we will obtain blessing. What does Peter mean by we are blessed even in suffering (Matt. 5:10-12; 2Cor. 4:8-12; James 1:2-5; 1Peter 2:21-25)?

(d) *Think about it:* Lots of difficulties in life come when we either believe we are being sinned against or when we actually are being sinned against. How do you often respond to such injustice or unfairness? What does this passage teach us about how we are to respond?

(e) *Family:* Read 1Peter 3:13-17. List some examples of good things that we should be doing. Do you think you could ever be punished for these things? How are we supposed to respond if we do suffer? What does it mean that we are blessed (Matt. 5:10-12; 2Cor 4:8-12)? Pray that the Lord would give you the strength to suffer injustice with patience and love.

DAY 2 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1Peter 3:13-17.** In verse 15, there is a command given to sanctify or consecrate Christ as Lord in our hearts. What does that mean (Acts 2:36; 10:36; 20:21)? What do these two titles “the Christ” (Messiah) and “Lord” mean?

(b) Why is it essential to have Christ as our Lord when we are suffering (v. 17)? At the end of verse 14, Peter quotes from Isaiah 8:12. What is it “they” fear that we shouldn’t (Acts 19:23-41)?

(c) What is the difference between being defensive and giving a defense? What is the purpose given here for being able to give a defense (1Cor. 10:31-11:1)? What should our attitude be when we are mocked, looked down on, or even punished for what we believe?

(d) *Think about it:* Are you ready to give a defense? What is something that you need to learn more about or learn how to do in order to defend yourself in those times? Maybe you aren’t acting properly to begin with.

(e) *Family:* Read 1Peter 3:13-17. Talk about what the titles “the Christ” and “Lord” mean. What does it mean to set apart Christ as Lord in our hearts? How does this help us to endure unjust suffering? What would you say to a person who asked you why you believed what you did? Thank God that He is Lord and submit to Christ’s authority over all.

DAY 3 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1Peter 3:18.** This one verse packs in a lot of theology. What does this verse say Christ has done (Romans 5:6-8)? What does this passage say about the completeness of what Christ has done? Why is this important?

(b) What does it mean/matter that Christ was born in the spiritual realm (1Cor. 15:42-49)? Read Romans 8:3-11. What has Christ’s death to flesh and life in the spirit mean for us?

(c) How are we supposed to live (2Cor. 13:4; Phil. 3:10-11; Gal. 5:16-18)? What does it look like to put to death the flesh? What does it look like to walk in the Spirit?

(d) *Family:* Read 1Peter 3:18. What is it that Christ has done for us? Why did He do this? Is there anything that you could have done to become righteous (Romans 3:10-12)? Do you believe that Christ has done this and that He is Lord? Why or why not? Have you ever confessed that you need Him and turned from your sins? Praise God that He has saved us from a life of sin and judgment and given us a new life with Him. Pray that you would live in light of that and follow in His path in order to bring glory to Him.

DAY 4 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1Peter 3:19-20.** This is a very difficult passage and many have interpreted it in different ways. Let’s look at it carefully and see what Peter is trying to get at. Could this passage be talking about Christ descending into hell before He was resurrected to give people or angels alive before Noah a second chance (Luke 16:26; Hebrews 9:27; Eph. 4:9-10)? Why or why not?

(b) Who was it that went and preached to the “spirits in prison”? Did he go there in person or by the Spirit (v. 18; v. 1:11)? How are “the spirits in prison” described? Are these people or are they angels (Genesis 6:1-4; Jude 6; 1Peter 2:4)? Why or why not? Does Peter call angels “spirits” anywhere else in his letters? How does Peter seem to refer to angels (1Peter 1:12; 3:22; 2Peter 2:4,11)?

(c) How is Noah described in 2 Peter 2:5? How does this help us understand this passage(v. 1:11)? What are the verses before this all about (v. 13-18)? How then does this section connect with the rest of the passage?

(d) *Family*: Read 1Peter 3:19-20. Talk about what you learned from the study today. How does Noah serve as an example of what Peter has been talking about in verses 13-17? How are we to act in light of Noah’s example? Pray that you would be willing to proclaim the gospel like Noah did and walk in faith like him.

DAY 5 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1Peter 3:21-22.** What from verse 20 does baptism relate to? How would you use this verse to respond to someone who says that we are saved by baptism? What is baptism supposed to represent (Romans 6:3-7; Col. 2:11-13)?

(b) Some argue that the word for baptism can mean “to sprinkle.” How does this passage seem to go against this? How would being immersed or dipped make more sense according to this passage? Some also argue that infants are to be baptized. What difficulty would they have with this verse? What does “the pledge of a good conscience” seem to say about the ability of the person to recognize what they are doing?

(c) Peter ends this section with a statement about Christ’s supremacy over all. How does this relate to what we have already studied this week? How should this truth impact your way of life? Is there anything that you have not put in subjection to Christ?

(d) *Family*: Read 1Peter 3:21-22. Talk about what Baptism means. How does it signify what Christ has done? Does baptism save us? Why not? What is it that saves us (1Peter 1:8-9)? Why is being baptized so important? Who does it show what you believe? If you have never been baptized after having placed faith in Christ and want to be, talked to Jim or Hunter. Come to the September fellowship and see new believers baptized and express their desire and willingness to trust in Christ and follow after Him. Thank God for such a wonderful picture of what He has done your life!

DAY 6 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) *Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* What has God taught you this week about your own character and actions toward others? Anything need some realignment? How are you responding to others when you are criticized, persecuted, or insulted? Do you seek man’s approval more than God’s? What could you be doing to be ready to share the Gospel? Pray that God would begin to put people in your path so you could live out the gospel in this way.

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The Joy of Christ’s Supremacy
“set apart Christ as Lord in your hearts”