

1 Peter 3:8-17

Introduction:

1. The apostle Peter wrote two of the New Testament "epistles" [letters].
2. Peter wrote his first letter to Christians who were facing severe trials (1:6-7).
3. Even while facing trials, Christians are responsible for:
 - a. being holy before God (1:15-16)
 - b. living honestly before unbelievers (2:11-12).
4. Fulfilling these responsibilities includes:
 - a. submitting to civil leaders (2:13-17)
 - b. servants submitting to their masters (2:18-20)
 - c. wives and husbands carrying out their duties (3:1-7).
5. This lesson is a study of the information presented in 1 Peter 3:8-17.
6. The Lord requires His followers to carry out their duties:
 - a. to each other (vs.8-12)
 - b. when persecuted for doing good (vs.13-17).

Discussion:

- I. (vs.8-12) THE LORD REQUIRES HIS FOLLOWERS TO CARRY OUT THEIR DUTIES TO EACH OTHER
 - A. (vs.8) Christians are to:
 1. be "*of one mind*" (Romans 12:16; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Philippians 2:2; 4:2)
 2. have "*compassion one of another*" (Luke 10:33-35)
 3. "*love as brethren*" (Romans 12:10a; Hebrews 13:1)
 4. "*be pitiful*" (Ephesians 4:32)
 5. "*be courteous*" (Philippians 2:3-4).
 - B. (vs.9) Christians are not to render "*evil for evil, or railing for railing.*"
 1. Jesus set the proper example (2:21-23).
 2. Jesus requires Christians to follow His example (Matthew 5:38-39; Romans 12:17a; 1 Thessalonians 5:15).
 3. Those who comply with these instructions will "*inherit a blessing.*"
 - C. (vs.10-11; Psalm 34:12-14) In order to "*love life, and see good days,*" a Christian must:
 1. "*refrain his tongue from evil*" (2:1)
 2. "*eschew [turn away from] evil, and do good*" (1 Thessalonians 5:22)
 3. "*seek peace, and ensue it*" (Romans 12:18; Matthew 5:9).
 - D. (vs.12) A person's response to these instructions determines whether the Lord will watch over him and hear his prayers (Psalm 34:15-16).
- II. (vs.13-17) THE LORD REQUIRES HIS FOLLOWERS TO CARRY OUT THEIR DUTIES WHEN PERSECUTED FOR DOING GOOD
 - A. (vs.13) This question is based on the assurance mentioned in vs.12.
 - B. (vs.14) Those who suffer for doing the Lord's will have no reason to be afraid.
 1. Matthew 10:28
 2. Hebrews 13:5b-6
 - C. (vs.15) The Lord wants His followers to always be prepared to give a defense with meekness and reverence.
 - D. (vs.16) By carrying out his duties when persecuted, a Christian will maintain a good conscience, even though he may be falsely accused.
 - E. (vs.17) Peter earlier explained this principle when he dealt with the responsibilities of servants in 2:19-20.