

DEVOTIONS FOR THIS WEEK: 1 Peter 3:1-22

Well, how did you do last week? Did you discover some new things about yourself and Jesus' way of living? Was it difficult and do you have some things to work on? I know I do!

This week we are going to continue on submission and also introduce the act of doing what is good over evil and what sacrifices we will experience in doing what is right.

Let us begin in prayer:

We want to thank you Father for opening our eyes to see who you are and who you want us to be. Father we are so grateful for your patience, leading and daily directions of how we need to be living a life according to your Holy Word. That isn't easy to do, but you still encourage us and show us your perfect will. Thank you!

Forgive us Lord when the human side of our emotions and reaction take over. We always seem to fail you when we lead by our emotions and not by your heart of mercy. Continue to teach us this week through Peter's advice to the people of Israel in continuing to be submissive and to desire to do good and not let evil overcome us. May we see Jesus as our perfect example.

Thank you Jesus for this precious time with you and pray you will bless us and keep us in your loving care. In Jesus' powerful name we pray. Amen

- **Monday- Meditate on 1 Peter 3:1-7**

- Verses 1-6 are instructions to wives and verse 7 is for husbands. I know you are asking yourself why only one verse for husbands? More to come later in Peter.

- Verse 1 "in the same way" is referring to in the same way as believers we are to submit to government authorities a, slaves to their masters and wives are to submit to their husbands.
- Submitting to husbands is not in place of the Lord, but rather shows that a woman ought to submit to her husband as an act of submission to the Lord.

1 Corinthians 11:3 (NIV) ³ But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

- This submission is one role or function necessary for the orderly operation of the home.

Proverbs 31:10-13 (NIV) ¹⁰A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. ¹¹Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. ¹²She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. ¹³She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands.

- If husbands are unbelievers. The Word or Gospel should be spoken if not then we must lead by example. Our lives should mirror the Word of God. By the quality of our life it may lead them to be believers. Actions speak louder than words.
- Verse 2- Purity- freedom from immorality; Reverence- action of deep respect.
- Verse 3- Outward Beauty vs Inward Beauty
 - Because of our desire to be submissive to God this brings the true beauty of God in and thru us.
 - We don't have to adorn ourselves with outward beauty.
- Verse 7- Husbands again "in the same way" as believers and as their wives have done, lead by example. Equal submission.
 - Weaker – referring to strength
 - Heir- husbands and wives of God will be heirs to God and will not hinder their prayers.

Ephesians 5:25 (NIV) ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

Ephesians 5:28-31 (NIV) ²⁸In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— ³⁰for we are members of his body. ³¹"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV) ⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres.

○ **Tuesday- Meditate on 1 Peter 3:8-12**

- Today's reading offers instructions or commands to us on how to treat others. Look for these Key Commands and then look for the rewards.

- **Harmony** – one and same mind and spirit

Philippians 2:2 (NIV) ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

- **Sympathetic** – show sympathy

Romans 12:15 (NIV) Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

- **Love** – be loving to each other as one family of God

1 Corinthians 12:26 (NIV) ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

- **Compassion** – tenderhearted

Colossians 3:1 (NIV) ¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

- **Humble** – being modest or low estimate of one's own important

Philippians 2:6-8 (NIV) ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

- Now look at the Rewards:

- **Blessings**

- Offer blessings to others rather than evil for evil.
- Inherit a blessing

Romans 12:9-21 (NIV) ⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

- **Wednesday- Meditate on 1 Peter 3:13-16**

- Ask yourself these questions:

- Verse 13; who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good?
- When have you suffered for doing what was right?

- Did you see a blessing in it?
- If you were questioned for your decision to do right would you be ready to give an answer of hope in gentleness, and respect?
- Can you see how God has given us a heart that will set us apart from the world and more a part of Christ?

- Now meditate on these scriptures:

Isaiah 8:11-13 (NIV) ¹¹ This is what the LORD says to me with his strong hand upon me, warning me not to follow the way of this people: 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.

Romans 5:5 (NIV) ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

- Now read the **Blessings in the Beatitudes**. Claim those blessings one by one!!

Matthew 5:3-12 (NIV) ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 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.

- **Thursday- Meditate on 1 Peter 3:17-22**

Today’s verses are all about Christ suffering for you and me. As we talked about last week, that Christ is our Perfect Example. Today we give him all the praise, glory, and honor of this most loving act.

- **Thoughts of Reflection:**

- Better to suffer for doing Good than Evil.
- Christ died for our sins Once for All.
- Righteous and Unrighteous because this was God’s will.

- Christ fleshly body died! But His Spirit lives forever!
 - Spirit of Christ teaches those prisoned and free. (Heart is closed to the truth or opened to the truth.)
 - Through baptism we are renewed to the promise of God.
 - Christ is the Resurrection and has all authority sitting at the right hand of God the Father.
 - Angels, authorities and powers submit to God Almighty.
- As you read these scriptures, meditate and reflect on the promises of God, the precious gift of baptism and the joy of life today tomorrow and forever.

Hebrews 9:24-28 (NIV) ²⁴ For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. ²⁵ Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. ²⁶ Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, ²⁸ so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Philippians 2:5-11 (NIV) ⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! ⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

John 10:14-18 (NIV) ¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me — ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves

me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

Acts 1:6-8 (NIV) ⁶ Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

- **Friday-** We now have completed chapter 3. I would like you to take the day and review a familiar story of Noah and read Genesis Chapter 6-8.
 - Compare Peter’s writing in Chapter 3 about what Christ’s sacrificed, baptism, and resurrection.
 - Can you see the imagery of the Story of Noah and Christ?

Let us pray:

Jesus, oh my Jesus! It is such a wonder to read your word through the eyes of Peter. The story is always the same but told from the heart of one of your disciples. Lord as we study your word may we begin to have a heart so eager to share the life of Jesus with others.

Thank you for your life and our new life in you through faith and the act of baptism. May our old bodies be cleansed clean to put on the new. May we be your example to a world so blinded by selfish desires and wants. Let them hunger for what we have...Your unconditional love and forgiveness.

Bless this day and all who may be in it. In the love of our Savior we pray these requests. Amen

