

EXHORTATIONS TO CHRISTIANS

BIBLE TEXT : I Peter 3:1-22; 4:1-19; 5:1-11.

LESSON 453 Junior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time" (I Peter 5:6).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

1 Peter 3:1-22

¹ Likewise, ye wives, *be* in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;

² While they behold your chaste conversation *coupled* with fear.

³ Whose adorning let it not be that outward *adorning* of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;

⁴ But *let it be* the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, *even the ornament* of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

⁵ For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:

⁶ Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.

⁷ Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

⁸ Finally, *be ye* all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, *be* pitiful, *be* courteous:

⁹ Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

Bible References:

Notes:

Hindrance to Prayer

The letters which were written by Peter were addressed to Christians. A Christian is one who follows Jesus and His teachings. A Christian is a believer in the Word of God, and practices what the Bible teaches. Jesus' disciples "were called Christians first in Antioch" (Acts 11:26).

After one is saved, he must continue to walk with the Lord, that his soul might be fed. One must read the Bible and pray each day. Peter pointed out some things that might hinder one's prayers from being answered. One must be careful how he lives at home before his family and close friends. A real Christian lives for Jesus every hour, not only at church but also at home, at school, at work or at play. With Jesus in his heart, one wants to be courteous, to have compassion, and to love others. He who has been given a new heart by Jesus does good to all people, even those who do not treat him well. Jesus taught His people the Golden Rule: "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them" (Matthew 7:12).

Ornaments

Often people like to make a good appearance before others, by trying to conceal what they really have in their heart. The condition of the heart is more important than what appears on the outside. One can have fine clothes and manners, expensive watches and cars, but God looks past all these things to the heart. In the days of David, the Prophet Samuel said, "The LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart" (I Samuel 16:7).

Peter taught that "the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit" is worth a great price in the sight of God. One does not have to tell others that he has a good heart or that he has a meek and quiet spirit. Those things come from God and change one's actions and behaviour. After one is saved, he has a new heart. Then as he obeys God, as he prays and consecrates his life to the Lord, he will receive from God these Christian graces; he will have spiritual adorning; he will have the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22, 23). A Christian dresses like a Christian, and does not go along with the extreme fashions of the world. Christians dare to be different from the worldly throng, and try to glorify God in the way they dress and conduct themselves.

Protection

"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." What a comfort to a Christian to know that God sees everything: the things that are done to him as well as the things that he does! How good to know that he can call upon God and know that His ears are open to prayer! In time of need one may call for help but he is not sure that any person will hear or that any person will want to help. What a blessing to the Christian to know that God is watching and listening, waiting to protect and help him!

Does God know about those who are not saved? In Proverbs

¹⁰ For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:

¹¹ Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.

¹² For the eyes of the Lord *are* over the righteous, and his ears *are open* unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord *is* against them that do evil.

¹³ And who *is* he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?

¹⁴ But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy *are ye*: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

¹⁵ But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

¹⁶ Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

¹⁷ For *it is* better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

¹⁸ For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

¹⁹ By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison;

²⁰ Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

²¹ The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by

15:3 we read, "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." God knows what people do -- the good and the evil - but His face is "against them that do evil." Think what it means to have sin and evil in one's heart. God is against such people and they will never have real peace until their heart is changed and the sin is gone. God can see your heart; and remember, you are being watched. We can easily see that it pays to serve Jesus and have His help and protection.

Hope

Besides all these things, a Christian has a great hope -- that Jesus will be with him, that Jesus will help him, that Jesus will keep him, and that Jesus will take him to Heaven. The Bible was written that "we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope" (Romans 15:4). Hope is an anchor of the soul (**Hebrews 6:19** ¹⁹ Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;) and it inspires one to be pure (**1 John 3:3** ³ And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure). "Hope thou in God" (Psalm 42:11).

Peter said that a Christian should "be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh . . . a reason of the hope" that lies within him. Sometimes one is asked why he is happy or what he has to smile about. A Christian can always say that the peace of God is in his heart and his sins are gone. There are many other reasons for having hope.

This hope, peace, and all the other reasons we give are due to the fact that Christ died for us. He shed His Blood that we "might have life" and that we "might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

Suffering

Peter mentioned the suffering of Christ, "the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God." There are different kinds of suffering: physical pain as well as spiritual and mental distress. Jesus suffered in different ways. He had physical pain when He was hanging on the cross. He was deeply distressed in spirit when God turned His face from Him (**Matthew 27:46**

⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?), when Peter denied Him (Mark 14:68-72), and when He prayed in agony in Gethsemane (**Luke 22:44** ⁴⁴ And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.). Jesus suffered temptation (**Luke 4:2** ² Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.), sorrow (**John 11:35** ³⁵ Jesus wept.), persecution (**Luke 4:28-29**

²⁸ And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, ²⁹ And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong.), and many other things so He would be able to comfort us (**Hebrews 2:18**

¹⁸ For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.) and to leave us an example (**1 Peter 2:21** ²¹ For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:).

Trials

After Peter mentioned what Christ suffered for us, he tells Christians how to act when they suffer. Some will have "fiery trials" but they should not think it strange. Rather, they should rejoice that Christ counts them worthy to be tested. Job went through a trial and said, "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold" (Job 23:10).

the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

²² Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

1 Peter 4:1-19

¹ Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

² That he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

³ For the time past of *our* life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

⁴ Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with *them* to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of *you*.

⁵ Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.

⁶ For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

⁷ But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

⁸ And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

⁹ Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

¹⁰ As every man hath received the gift, *even so* minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

¹¹ If any man speak, *let him speak* as the oracles of God; if any man minister, *let him do it* as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified

Christians will suffer persecution. In the Sermon on the Mount we read how a person should act when made fun of or ridiculed for being a Christian. Jesus said, "Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you" (Matthew 5:12).

In the world there is much suffering of many kinds with little relief. How different from a Christian, who is promised: "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him" (II Timothy 2:12), and if we suffer with Him, we shall also be glorified together (Romans 8:17).

Casting Cares upon Jesus

Peter closes this Epistle, or letter, by encouraging Christians to be watchful and prayerful: watchful because we have an enemy who, "as a roaring lion," goes about seeking whom he may devour. We should be prayerful because we need the help of the Lord to be true disciples and full overcomers.

By being humble before God and our fellow men, we know that in God's time He will lift us up. By casting our cares on Him, we will find that the love of God will bring the things, which are best into our lives and prepare us for Heaven. "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you."

QUESTIONS

1. Who wrote this Epistle?
2. To whom was it written?
3. How should a Christian act in his own home?
4. What kind of ornament is worth a great price in the sight of God?
5. How can one get that ornament?
6. What is hope?
7. For whom did Jesus suffer?
8. Why should a Christian rejoice when he is persecuted?
9. What will God do for those who humble themselves before Him?
10. Why should one cast his care upon Jesus?

through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

¹² Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

¹³ But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

¹⁴ If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy *are ye*; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or *as* a thief, or *as* an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

¹⁶ Yet if *any man suffer* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

¹⁷ For the time *is come* that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if *it first begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of God?

¹⁸ And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

¹⁹ Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls *to him* in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

1 Peter 5:1-11

¹ The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

² Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

³ Neither as being lords over

God's heritage, but being
ensamples to the flock.

⁴ And when the chief Shepherd
shall appear, ye shall receive a
crown of glory that fadeth not
away.

⁵ Likewise, ye younger, submit
yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all
of you be subject one to another,
and be clothed with humility: for
God resisteth the proud, and
giveth grace to the humble.

⁶ Humble yourselves therefore
under the mighty hand of God,
that he may exalt you in due time:

⁷ Casting all your care upon him;
for he careth for you.

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because
your adversary the devil, as a
roaring lion, walketh about,
seeking whom he may devour:

⁹ Whom resist stedfast in the
faith, knowing that the same
afflictions are accomplished in
your brethren that are in the
world.

¹⁰ But the God of all grace, who
hath called us unto his eternal
glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye
have suffered a while, make you
perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle
you.

¹¹ To him *be* glory and dominion
for ever and ever. Amen.