

W @ K L J P r a J @ r J O u r n a l

DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

“Fear and Safety” Part-2

1 Peter 3:13-17

MARCH 11 – MARCH 17, 2007

Lord's Day	Praise & Prayer	ADORATION Hallowed be Your name. (6:9)	AUTHORITY Your Kingdom come... (6:10)	APPEAL Give us this day... (6:11)	AQUITTAL Forgive us our debts... (6:12)	ASSISTANCE Deliver us from evil. (6:13a)	ADMIRATION For Yours is the Kingdom... (6:13)
Sat							
Fri							
Thu							
Wed							
Tue							
Mon							

THE LORD'S DAY –This week we continue with our second part of “Fear and Safety”. We are now going to focus on some practical ways we can live out the truths we have studied from this passage. We are going to see that God has placed us in a hostile world in order to proclaim His glorious gospel to those who are lost without Him. Read our text in **1 Peter 3:13-17**.

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: Ask God to teach you from His Word this week and to help you learn how to be a fearless and secure witness for Him.

MONDAY –By way of short review we have seen that we as believers are not to fear and be afraid of those who would be hostile to us and our message of the Gospel. It is one thing to read verses such as **Isaiah 8:12** and **1 Peter 3:14**, but it is a very different matter to live them out in everyday life. It is only in our daily coming to God and clinging to Him and His Word, and walking in His Holy Spirit that we can truly live this way or for that matter, live an effective Christian life at all. If we are living apart from obedience and power by God’s Holy Spirit we will never be able to be effective and without fear in a world that hates the truth of God. Read **Psalm 31:24, Matthew 10:26-28, Philippians 4:13**.

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: God, help us to daily come and find our strength in You. Help us obey Your Word and put our hope and trust in You.

TUESDAY –In **verse 15** the Apostle Peter gives us another directive on how we are to live as believers in a hostile world. We see that we are to go on the “**offensive**”; not that we are to be “**offensive**” but rather that we are

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to be “ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you...” He tells us we are to be prepared at any time to give a “defense” (Greek-apologia -verbal defense, speech in defense, a reasoned statement or argument). We are to be prepared to tell others what we believe as Christians and then also be able to articulate our beliefs. As Michael Horton of “The White Horse Inn” says, “Know what you believe and why you believe it”. Read an example of this from the Apostle Paul in **Acts 26:1-29**.

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Ask the Lord Jesus to help you be prepared and ready to give a “defense” and ask Him for opportunity to do so to others.*

WEDNESDAY –Peter defines the gospel message as “the hope that is in you...” Hope is such a great word and it is so very important in the Christian life. This is not a “hope so” or “I wish” kind of assurance but rather it speaks of the Christians “confident expectation”. As Christians we have the confident expectation that regardless of what may befall us in this life we have been assured of escape from the punishment of sin in hell and an entrance into eternal bliss in heaven through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross for us. This “hope” is what we have as believers and we are to share it with those who are apart from Christ, lost in their sin and under the condemnation of a Holy God. Read **Colossians 1:23, Titus 3:7, Hebrews 10:23, 1 Peter 1:3-5**.

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Thank You Father God that You have granted us life, and a living hope through the person and work of Your Son Jesus Christ.*

THURSDAY –Not only are we to be prepared and ready to speak for Christ, but we are told how we are to give our “defense”. **Verse 15** continues by saying we are to do this “...with meekness and fear”. We are to give our “defense” with humility, gentleness, and with a great reverence for God and also with respect for the one to whom we are speaking. Never be insulting and fight with those we are speaking with but gently give the gospel message with the understanding that we are in the presence of our Holy God who sees and hears all things. God is revered and “feared” when we in love and without contention speak the truth of His gospel letting The Holy Spirit do His work in the heart and mind of the listener. Read **2 Corinthians 10:1a, 1 Peter 1:17**.

What principles in these verses are applicable to my life today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Dear God, may we reverence you by humbly and gently sharing Your glorious gospel, realizing You are always watching.*

FRIDAY –The final thing Peter mentions that gives the believer safety and security in a hostile world is that they have a “good conscience”. We are to live in such a way that our own consciences are clear and clean. As Albert Barnes has said, “Whatever you suffer, see that you do not suffer the pangs inflicted by a guilty conscience, the anguish of remorse.” Our conscience is a God given mechanism which holds us to His standard. This is not to say that our consciences are above the work of The Holy Spirit but it is saying that when we live according to the Word of God as taught to us by The Holy Spirit we will be able to live with a guilt free, clean conscience. We have had our consciences cleansed at salvation (**Hebrews 9:14**) and we keep it clean and pure by filling our hearts with the Word of God and obeying it. Read **Job 27:6, 1 Timothy 1:5, 19, Hebrews 10:22**.

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Ask God to help you have a clear and clean conscience by daily feeding on and obeying His Holy Word.*

SATURDAY –We see in the remainder of **verse 16** that when we live in obedience to God’s Word and have a clean conscience all the accusations and slander of unbelievers will be false and we can then withstand their abuses. **Verse 17** teaches us that if God sees it to be necessary for our good that we should suffer, it is better that you should “suffer for doing good than for doing evil”. As always God’s word has all the answers to life and specifically here in our text He tells us how we are to live in “Fear and Safety”. May our prayer and our lives be like the one Paul describes in **2 Corinthians 1:12**.

What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Oh God and Father help us to so live this way in the world and may we bring You –Father, Son, and Spirit great glory.*