

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

DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

“Fear and Safety” Part-1

1 Peter 3:13-17

MARCH 4 – MARCH 10, 2007

THE LORD'S DAY –This week we return to **1 Peter** and we are going to look at a passage which tells us how we can be safe and fearless in the world in which we live. As a believer we are told there is a way to live life that will be both blessed by the Lord and safe from threats and trouble even if and when they come upon us. 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 fearless and secure in Him.

MONDAY –We do not want to be naïve in thinking we will never be persecuted or suffer for being Godly in an ungodly world but Peter gives us a general principle of life here in **verse 13**. He asks us as believers a rhetorical question {a rhetorical question is one asked solely to produce an effect (especially to make an assertion) rather than to elicit a reply. (WordNet® 2.1. Princeton University)}. We are told “...who will harm you if you become followers of what is good?” The Greek word “good” is agathos which means among other things pleasant, joyful, upright, excellent, and honorable. Peter is saying that generally speaking the world will not be hostile to those who are marked by a life of genuine kind, thoughtful, loving, unselfish and upright behavior. Read **1 Peter 2:12, Matthew 5:16, and Romans 12:20-21**.

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

Suggestion for prayer: God, help us understand that You are glorified when we live as “followers of good” in obedience to Jesus and His Word.

TUESDAY –Continuing the thought from yesterday let us expand on exactly how we are to live a life that is “good”. The principle of safety is here qualified to those who would “become followers” of what is good.

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)	Lord's Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

M a t t h e w 6: 9-13

We see that we are to become “*followers*” mimetes (imitate, mimic) of what is good. It is when our life is marked with the qualities of goodness that we will find evil and hostility generally restrained even from the most hostile of people towards the gospel message. Read these verses which spell out a bit more about this “good” living principle. **Psalm 37:3, 125:4, Proverbs 3:27, Galatians 6:9-10, 1 Thessalonians 5:15.**

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

Suggestion for prayer: Ask the Lord Jesus to help you mimic and imitate Him and live a life that is marked by the display of God’s goodness and grace.

WEDNESDAY –As Peter continues in **verse 14** he says, “*But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed.*” We are told here that even though the general principle of safety from doing “*good*” is in place we must remember that Christ and the Apostles have told us there will be persecution for those who would be like Jesus. This may seemingly be a contradiction to our human minds but the main point being stressed here is revealed in the next part of the verse which we will see tomorrow. God is Sovereign over ALL affairs and peoples and even when persecution comes to His people they can IN that persecution still find God’s safety and blessing. Read and meditate on **Matthew 5:10-12, John 15:18-21, 2 Timothy 3:12.**

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

Suggestion for prayer: Thank You Father God that even when we suffer persecution for being like Jesus He is with us and is in control.

THURSDAY –As we stated yesterday we find a strange paradox in this truth that we can be both persecuted and yet safe and blessed at the same time. As Peter continues in **verse 14** he quotes the prophet Isaiah from **Isaiah 8:12**. God is here telling the prophet not to be afraid or troubled when he is threatened or persecuted. The reason is found in Peter’s statement, “*you are blessed*”. This is precisely what Jesus said in **Matthew 5:10-12**. In **verse 12** of that passage Jesus told us the man who is persecuted should be “*exceedingly glad*” because “*great is your reward in heaven*”. The point that is being made in our text by the Apostle Peter is that even if and when we suffer for what is right we are to take it as Jesus did and then we will live in a state of blessedness. The man who understands this is “**blessed**” (makarios-happy). Not that we enjoy persecution rather we see it as a blessed state to be in. Read **Matthew 5:12** and **1 Peter 4:12-14** and see God’s blessing revealed.

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

Suggestion for prayer: Ask God to help you see the promise that we are blessed by Him when we suffer for Him and in that He is glorified.

FRIDAY –As Peter continues in **verse 15** he is apparently continuing the thoughts from **Isaiah 8:13**. He tells us, “*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts...*” We don’t make Him Holy for He is already Holy. Rather, Isaiah was told his estimate of God should be one that “*hallows*” the Lord and lets Him be his “*fear*” and “*dread*”. We are to not fear what man can do to us but rather fear God with a holy, reverent fear and respect that helps us to live lives that please Him. When we “*sanctify*” the Lord we give Him the primary place of adoration, fear, and worship that He alone deserves. God will not leave His saints whose hearts are “*loyal to Him*” in times of trouble but will be with them and “*show Himself strong*” on their behalf (**2 Chronicles 16:9**). How our lives would be lived so differently if we truly understood and practiced this great truth. Read **Luke 12:4-8**.

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

Suggestion for prayer: Ask God to help you to “sanctify” Him in your heart. To worship and fear Him and to live a life that is “loyal” to Him.

SATURDAY –Lord willing next week we will continue in our text with some practical advice on how exactly we are to live out this truth to the unsaved world. But for today I want us to just reflect back on the thoughts we have gone over this week. Are you a “*follower of what is good*”? Are you living a life of righteousness that displays a clear contrast to the sinful world in which you live? Is your fear the fear of men or the reverent and Holy fear of God? When we “*sanctify*” the Lord we affirm His sovereign place of rule over all and we submit ourselves to His sovereign plan. We obey Christ’s Word and His commands and therefore display His great glory in and through our lives. Truly He is the majestic King and may we strive to demonstrate that Him alone we honor as The Almighty Lord. Read **Deuteronomy 4:35, Psalm 90:1-2, 99:9, Romans 11:33, 13:14.**

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

Suggestion for prayer: Oh great, almighty, sovereign Lord help us to honor, fear, love, and obey You, for You alone are worthy of our love.