

- B. Only the hope given us through the resurrection of Jesus can overcome the fears that the passions of our flesh want to convince us are going to get us (3:15-16).
  - i. Behavior reveals where our hope really lies.
  - ii. The fears faced
- C. Sanctify the Lord Christ (Isaiah 8:13)
  - a) The Christian hope is the renewal of all things, about life coming out of death in Jesus, about the culmination of a kingdom which has already begun.
  - b) Even this must be spoken gently, not triumphantly.
- D. Suffering is better than doing evil... slandering others, dishonoring them with our words or actions. (3:17)

### LIVE THE STORY

*The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

#### Love the Gospel

- Discuss the five adjectives which Peter says are to describe the community of God's people. How are we doing? How can we grow?
- Peter says we are called to the practices he describes. Who called us? How might answer that explain why we are able to do it?

#### Live the Gospel

- How does Peter describe our calling in such a way that we know it is not enough simply to say nothing when reviled? What must we *do*?
- What are some of the ways one might talk themselves out of the Gospel rather than doing what it says?
- Do you think the story of David acting insane before the king a fit metaphor for how we are called to live before the world? Explain.

#### Advance the Gospel

- Why is it essential to live motivated by hope rather than fear? How will this impact our ability to be a snapshot of God's kingdom?
- What does Peter mean by being ready to give a reason for the hope that we have? How does this help to advance the Gospel?

## Homeless: Living Out of Hope and Not Fear

Jerry Cisar — September 12, 2021

Text: 1 Peter 3:8-17

### Introduction

### I. Community Picture (3:8)

#### A. Context

- i. Peter tells us that we are a chosen race, a chosen people, a royal priesthood who declare the praises of God (2:9).
- ii. Then Peter began describing how we are to live. I.e. *Since this is who you are, here is how you live!* (2:13ff)

#### B. Peter uses five adjectives to describe what Christian community truly looks like. This is a picture of the royal priesthood.

- i. Harmonious
- ii. Sympathetic
- iii. Affectionate

iv. Compassionate

v. Humble

Karen Jobes: "Given the importance of the family unit as the basis of Greco-Roman society, the application of kinship terms to the relationship between Christian believers may be viewed as inappropriate or even threatening to the social order by those outside the church."

*The church is called to offer an alternative to the unjust structures of the world. To do so, we have to embody these qualities of Jesus Christ.*

- C. You cannot be this picture by yourself.
  - i. Peter did not say that you are a chosen person and royal priest; he said we are a people and a priesthood.
    - Romans 12:1-2
  - ii. This is a picture of what it looks like when living stones are fitted into a spiritual house, the dwelling of place of God.

## II. Community Practices (3:9-14a)

- A. Peter gives us **practices**.
  - i. Do not to repay evil with evil, or insult with insult.
  - ii. We are to actually return *blessing*!
- iii. To this we are called.
  - a) 1:15; 2:9, 21; 3:9; 5:10
  - b) We have a *role* in the world.

K. Rowe describes this *role* as bearing "witness to the inbreaking reign of God... in all we do and are" and becoming "a picture of... God's reign."

c) To be a part of the *church* is to embrace this *calling*.

B. Peter holds out a **promise**.

- i. We have been given new birth into a living hope, an unassailable inheritance kept in heaven for us. (1:3-4)
- ii. We must live out this calling, the very calling by which we were given new birth!

*We are God's holy ones, saints, and now we must live into who we are!*

C. Peter then draws on a sizeable quotation from Psalm 34.

- i. This whole letter is deeply infused with Psalm 34.
- ii. Whoever loves life and desires many days...
- iii. How we live, whether doing good or evil, sets us before the Lord in one light or the other (3:12).

## III. Community Power (3:14b-17)

- A. Do not fear what they fear or be shaken.
  - i. Compare with Isaiah 8:12-13.
  - ii. The world fears anything that threatens their security.