

1 PETER 3:8-17 | GENERAL EXHORTATION

- Verses 8-9 – see session 8
- Verses 10-11 –
 - There are two ways of looking at this instruction.
 - We normally read it *proverbially*. Anyone of any dispensation will have a greater love of life if they *keep their words holy* as well as their living. In this interpretation, there is no promise involved in Peter’s instruction.
 - Peter could have meant it *literally*. If these instructions are placed into the final days Peter could be giving instructions for living in light of coming judgment, upon which kingdom entrance will depend (for those of that dispensation).
 - While the proverbial interpretation is the only one that we can use in our dispensation, we should recognize that 1 Peter is a *Jewish* book, thus concerns *Kingdom* life rather than *Grace* life.
- Verse 12 –
 - The words of verse 12 are a partial quote of Psalm 34:15-16. Because of this, we can only interpret Peter by understanding the context of Psalm 34.
 - Psalm 34 is a Psalm of *reign*, speaking of the future time of the millennium, after the tribulation (see verses 4-8, for example).
 - Psalm 34:15-16, then, speak of a *future reality*, not yet present on this earth in fulness.
 - Though at times the Lord has given a taste of this immediate blessing and judgment, such times have been rare (especially in our current dispensation).
 - Furthermore, consider the conclusion of Psalm 34:16, which is not included in 1 Peter 3:12. The conclusion verifies our contention that verses 10-11 can only be taken literally when placed in the final days.
 - Finally, note that it is *not only* verse 12 that quotes Psalm 34, but verses 10-12 are a quote of Psalm 34:12-16a.
- Verse 13 –
 - These words echo (but not quote) Psalm 34:17.
 - Peter can only be speaking in an ultimate (millennial) sense, for both in the tribulation and all times prior, there are *many that will harm you* for doing **that which is good**.
- Verse 14 –
 - Coming back to the present situation of the recipients, Peter speaks of current suffering **for righteousness’ sake**.
 - The very fact that he does this gives testimony to our position that the previous words (vv. 12-13) must be millennial and not present, for suffering for righteousness cannot happen if verses 12-13 are a present reality.

- The words of this verse echo Psalm 91:5-6, words which describe the protected ones during the tribulation.
- Verse 15 –
 - During times of suffering, Peter instructs his followers to **sanctify the Lord God**.
 - The conclusion of verse 14 and the beginning of verse 15 are quoted from Isaiah 8:12-13, which are also tribulational in context.
 - The instruction to **be ready always to give and answer...** is typically quoted without context.
 - While it is beneficial to “always be ready to witness” or even to “always be ready to preach,” the actual context of the passage is much more narrow.
- Verse 16 –
 - Peter, continuing to describe the *suffering saint*, instructs them to live with **a good conscience** even under false accusation.
 - The reality of the coming tribulation has always been experienced in lighter degree, that those who are evil will **speak evil of you**. In the end, their reward is *shame* (compare 1 Peter 2:6).
- Verse 17 –
 - Clearly the best scenario is that **the will of God** is no suffering at all, but *if* God wills **that ye suffer**, it is better that it be **for well doing, than for evil doing**.
 - Many times the people of God suffered *justly*, and at times they suffered *unjustly*. In the tribulation, the suffering will be *unjust*, with Job as the comparison (type).