

A Practical Study of 1 PETER:

Practice for Suffering Saints

“How Suffering Fits in the Father’s Plan”

Key Verse: 1 Peter 5:10

“But the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, shall himself make you complete, shall establish you, shall make you strong, shall ground you as on a foundation.”

Pattern Number Seven – Life Can Be Beautiful – 1 Peter 3:8-12

Key Verse 3:10

We have traveled through six of the studies so far.

1. Don’t get shook God has the controls.

We were talking about being BORN AGAIN—having an inheritance and we’re protected by the power of God.

Secondly we talked about:

2. Getting tough and starting to grow.

Here we talk about MENTAL TOUGHNESS and desiring the “sincere milk of the word.”

I hope the Word is doing a work in your life right now and has done a work this week.

We learned that we are “living stones” in a living building.

3. We are part of the establishment—we are part of each other.

Fourth we learned a principle of:

4. Submission to authority.
5. Follow in His steps wherever He would lead.

And this morning we saw this focus primarily on the MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP:

6. One + One = One

The main focus for the wife was the “gentle and quiet spirit,” which is very costly.

The primary priority of every wife is not what you look like on the outside but what you are on the inside.

That is going to make your husband long for you. And that is

what's going to make you effective and indelibly marking the children that you bring into the world.

I don't ever remember hearing a kid tell me he was impressed by the way his mother dressed. But I've heard a many, many child tell me that it's that personal godly discipline of seeing mom in prayer or mom doing something like this or that, that made that impact.

Husbands, ours is not an easy task. Ours could be summarized in the words LOVING LEADERSHIP.

We are to live with our wives according to knowledge and to have that knowledge we must communicate so they can tell us what their needs are.

Otherwise, we're splattering a lot of shot around and not doing a very good job.

If you find yourself out of fellowship with your wife at any moment, you can assume one other thing—you're out of fellowship with God.

Those two go together. That your prayers be not hindered.

These lovely verses—the five of them that we look at together—I have found what can be called the BEAUTIFUL LIFE. When we do live by divine principle and live by the patterns of the first six studies, listen friend, life can be as beautiful as what you've seen in the majestic landscape these

days here in the mountains.

God intended for things to be beautiful.

The evil one and the world system desires that things be ugly—they be distorted and they be destroyed.

Living by God's plan makes it beautiful.

And what I've done with these verses is tried to focus on just specific phrases to show you the ingredients of a beautiful life.

Dr. Carl Jung who was an eminent psychiatrist, was asked to succinctly diagnose the great spiritual illness of our contemporary society. This is his reply:

The central neurosis of our age is emptiness.
(source unknown)

And so he would choose one word to describe us: **EMPTINESS.**

Secondly, Victor Frankl who was tortured in a Nazi concentration camp and survived being totally stripped of all of his clothes and stood there embarrassed. And they noticed his wedding ring and they came and took that off. He stood there and said: "You can do whatever you want to me but you cannot determine my attitude in what I am experiencing."

His conclusion is this:

When asked the question he answered “meaninglessness.”
(source unknown)

EMPTINESS.

MEANINGLESSNESS.

Rollo May who is a New York psychotherapist declared:

No, it’s not emptiness. It’s not meaninglessness. It’s
loneliness.
(source unknown)

And we say YES.

A bad joke was Voltaire’s feelings about life:

“Bring down the curtain” said the dying actor, “the farce is
done.”
(source unknown)

This godless, unhappy, materialistic civilization is responsible
for that famous line in *Green Pastures* when angel Gabriel
says to de Lawd: “Everything nailed down is coming loose.”

And we’re living in those days.

I’ve had the incredible privilege over these last few months of
leading several individuals to Jesus Christ. Praise God for
that!

Now almost every one of these people are up in their 60s and 70s and that in itself is a miracle. But I can tell you the story of every one of them and these words graphically describe what they've experienced to a lot of religious activity. But they've never found reality until they came to know Jesus Christ in a personal way.

I miss the kids telling you some of these. Usually we ask them to share how some of these young people came to know the Lord Jesus because some of these are just little babies in Christ who have just come—just come to know Jesus this year in their clubs and at their schools. Some of them have been on hard drugs, broken homes. You can go the gamut. These kids found healing in Jesus Christ and that's why they're here serving. They just want to tell you they love you and the love of Jesus is motivating them.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17 Paul says:

Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creation. Old things have passed away; behold all things have become new.

To quote Francis Schaeffer once more before we look at our verses, he says this:

The Song of Solomon beautifully depicts the need for a personal comforter. This magnificent love song in the midst of the Bible puts emphasis upon the fact that God has made us

man and woman and because of this there is a place for a love song in the scriptures. In the Song of Solomon we find that the girl has gone to her room for the night. She has anointed herself with perfumes and has retired. Then there's a knock at the door. Her lover has come and he wants her to be with him, but she hesitates and remains inside. She's gone to bed and doesn't want to get up, after all she has washed and her hands are anointed. Then suddenly he leaves and as soon as she realizes this, she sees that all the perfume is absolutely worthless once the lover is gone. This is exactly the way it is with man. Struggling with the trappings of personality, man finds that if there is no one there to be a real and sufficient lover, if there is no infinite personal God then his wrestling with the trappings of personality is futile.

(Death in the City, page unknown)

Peter wants to make it quite clear that one thing he had learned in his life is that when a person follows the principles of submission to authority and in obedience to the word of God, his life can be beautiful. And you say "How?" I found ELEVEN INGREDIENTS to the beautiful life here.

And you can just kind of circle them in your text because they are right there as we walk through it.

He tells us here, yes it's temporary—its short and death is sure and sin's the cause and Christ's the cure and all that. But there are ELEVEN INGREDIENTS to the beautiful life in these verses. When you take these and you mix them together, you've got the life of Jesus Christ being reflected.

Now can I hit you with one more thing? The only reason life can be beautiful is by my submission to what He wants me to be.

Now you argue and you can resist some of the things we've looked at in the earlier chapters, and you'll pay the consequences. Your life will be distorted and ugly in those areas of resistance. When you're submissive, when you're yielding to His place and program, it is beautiful only as I am submissive to His work in my life.

Now having said that, let's just take it a verse at a time and walk through them and ask God for alertness in spirit as we see them.

v. 8 Finally, all of you be united in spirit, sympathetic, loving the brethren, tenderhearted, humble-minded;

“Finally”—he's coming down here toward the end of chapter three.

“Finally, all of you be united in spirit, sympathetic, loving the brethren, tenderhearted, humble-minded;”

You know one thing I want you to do—just for fun ok—I want you to think as much about the biography of Peter while I give you these eleven ingredients. It will make it kind of jump off the page at you.

What this fellow is talking about is not some great standard of something he hasn't experienced, but he's experienced just the opposite many times.

And so the challenge to him, as the challenge to us, is to hear what he says about life that can be beautiful and that's the standard I want it to be. But it isn't always like that for Peter. Now think of him in terms of these ingredients.

Would you notice the little word "all of you"?

You see, he's been picking out specific individuals. Remember back in chapter 2 he said "servants be submissive to your masters." What did he say this morning? "Wives be submissive to your husbands." And then the last group that he spoke to was husbands—what you're supposed to do. Now, this is for everybody.

So he opens it up and this is all-encompassing. Not talking to husbands anymore. Not talking to wives. Not talking to servants. No select group. We're all in this together.

"Finally, all of you"—ingredient number one of the beautiful life is:

1. "be united in spirit."

Jesus Christ prayed in John 17 that "they may be one even as we are one."

Now are you beginning to feel just a little bit of unity with the people who are sitting around you at the table? Who meet with you in the evening? Who love you and who care for you and who minister to you and your children?

That is a manifestation of the beautiful life. And if you are contributing to that, then you're walking in the Spirit, because that's exactly what the Lord wants. He wants us as brothers and sisters in the body of Christ to magnify one another and to love one another and to reach out to one another.

F. B. Meyer is one of my favorite old writers:

Let us think more often of the things in which we agree, than in the things in which we differ. All are loved with the same love, we're bought by the same blood, we're born of the same spirit, we're members of the same body, animated by the same life, subject to the same hopes and fears and afflictions and vicissitudes, drawing our daily sustenance from the same supplies, destined for the same home. How many and close are the bonds of our relationship. Surely it becomes us to have great compassion one toward another, correcting each other if need be privately or before the church, with no desire for self-exaltation but with eager loyalty for the glory of God. Putting the best construction on points of difference, viewing everything in the light of the Master's glory and trying to be more animated by that loving, tender, compassionate Spirit which enabled Him to bear so long with the misunderstanding, the strife and the stupidity of the men

whom He had chosen to form the inner circle of His earthly life.

(source unknown)

The first ingredient is “be united in spirit.”

Are you that kind of contributing factor? Let me ask you, in your home are you a unified factor? How about your church? How about the people that know you at church? Do they constantly hear you bickering and criticizing and tearing down? Or do people in the church know you as a unifying factor? That you’re there always believing the best.

Listen, the opposite of the “united in spirit” is to be **DIVISIVE**. And when you’re that way, you’re not walking in the Spirit and you’re not pursuing a beautiful life.

The opposite of this means that you have strewn your life with the wreckage of relationships all around you and you can’t be very happy and fulfilled when it’s like that.

Psalm 133:1

Behold how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell together in unity.

Paul in Ephesians 4 says:

Ephesians 4:1-6

As God's prisoner I beg you to live lives worthy of your high calling. Accept life with humility and patience and make allowances for each other because you love each other. Make it your aim to be at one in the Spirit and you will inevitably be at peace with one another, that the whole body might be built up until the time comes when in the unity of the common faith and common knowledge of the Son of God, we arrive at real maturity.

Ross is a classic old writer and he had a commentary on 1 Peter that I was reading in my research. And he told a story about a violin that I think illustrates this first point quite graphically:

An old violin makes sweeter music than a new one, and there is a reason for that. A violin is made of a large number of pieces of wood. When they are put together they are as it were strangers to one another. They are naturally stiff in their new found relationships. As stiff as new acquaintances in human life. They do not thrill lightly to one another, nor vibrate in perfect unity. That is a question of time and as years and decades roll on the idiosyncrasies of the separate pieces of wood get shook out of them and they get more accustomed to their common life in the frame of the violin the harshnesses begin to fade away. The vibrations come into mutual sympathy and the instrument gives at last its best.
(source unknown)

I was telling David about our trip down to Dallas. Yesterday one of the most touching experiences I ever had was doing a funeral for a fella who was missing in Vietnam. They never found him. They found his co-pilot. He was on a reconnaissance mission and he was one of the POWs. And from 1978 when he went down until 1982 when I did his memorial service, we prayed—remember the silver bracelets and all the letters that were written—he was never found. And that day some 5-6 years later, with his grieving widow and two teenage children who were very, very young when he left for the service.

We stood out there in the courtyard and watched three jets fly by with one missing. And then we heard the 21 gun salute. Someone was missing and so there was grief, there was hurt, there was pain.

Too often times the body of Christ has to be scarred with pain of the missing one that was out of fellowship—who was out of relationship. And that's got to hurt God deeply, to see us settle for that kind of thing in our relationships with one another.

He wants us to “be united in spirit” because that's one of our greatest, greatest witnesses.

Secondly we read we are to be:

2. “sympathetic.”

That is the word *sumpaschō*. The word *paschō* means to “suffer”. *Sum* means “with”—to suffer with.

You have that ability when someone tells you something that really hurts, you suffer with them. You feel with them. It hurts. It brings pain as tears come down their cheeks. Do you reach out and feel that?

“Sympathetic” is the second word.

Francis Assisi says it best in his prayer: “Lord grant that I may seek more to understand than to be understood.”

Third, the third ingredient is:

3. “loving the brethren”

Did Peter have a problem with “loving the brethren?” He’s the one that came to the Lord and said “How many times shall I forgive my brother”—SEVEN TIMES remember?

He was always in the middle of it, it seemed like. And to love the brethren was something difficult. But as life went on, he recognized that was the key.

I don’t think he was ever the same after he heard three times on the shore of Galilea: “Do you love me more than these?”

And then to respond: “You know Lord that I love you.”

“Loving the brethren.”

John 13:34 & 35

A new commandment I give unto you that you love one another as I have loved you...

The fourth ingredient in the beautiful life is in the next phrase:

4. “tender hearted”

This word means to feel compassion. It’s translated “tender hearted” but it’s really in the Greek it is “tender gutted” if you can put it the right way.

The Greeks believed that your emotions were in your viscera—in your intestines—in your liver and all the lower parts. We only have moved it to the heart.

And he’s saying, do you have that GUT FEELING that troubles you and wrenches you inside when someone is in dire and desperate need? You’re there and you’re tender toward their needs.

William Barclay says it’s pity that is the very essence of God, compassion is of the very being of Jesus Christ. Pity so great that God sent His only Son to die for men. A compassion so intense that it took Christ to the cross.

(source unknown)

Do you remember that experience when Mary and Martha meet Him after Lazarus has died in John chapter 11? They don't even let Him get to town, remember? And Martha says "If you'd been here, my brother would not have died." And then Mary comes and says the same song, second verse: "If you'd been here, my brother would not have died."

Then what does it say of Jesus? He was troubled inside and tears started to come down His face. And he says "Where have you laid him?"

And I think that "troubled inside" is the word here. I think it's the FEELING of tenderheartedness toward those who hurt. Does Jesus care? Oh yes He cares when my heart is touched with my grief!

The fifth word is the word:

5. "humble-minded"

To be "humble-minded," I'm broken. To be "humble-minded," I do not think of myself more highly than I ought to think.

Now these FIVE INGREDIENTS that we've looked at so far are just in that one verse. Isn't that a good verse to start with?

Let's look at the rest of them.

The nice thing about this little Bible study is, you know, just how long you've got to listen. You know? There are ELEVEN. You know when you can tune in and drop out and when you can come back. And so it's just really cool. I've really been good to you in doing it this way by announcing ahead of time what you have to listen to.

Now, if you took those first five ingredients and you turned them around—now let's take them for a minute:

1. UNITY,
2. SYMPATHY,
3. LOVE,
4. COMPASSION, and
5. HUMILITY.

Now, flip them over. Now what do you have? Well, I came up with:

1. DIVISION,
2. SELFISHNESS,
3. HATRED,
4. HARD-HEARTEDNESS, and

5. PRIDE.

Now what are all five of those? That's the FRUITAGE OF FLESH. And you're saying, that's a picture of the church. Yes. Lots of times we've got to say yes, we've got some people living in the flesh because those ugly things are there.

Now let's go on. Verse 9.

v. 9 not giving back evil for evil, or verbal abuse for verbal abuse, but on the other hand, be blessing; because to this you have been called in order that you might inherit a blessing.

In pursuing our thoughts, then we come to INGREDIENT #6 in the beautiful life. It is:

6. “not giving back evil for evil”

I put Romans 12:7 there.

Romans 12:17

Never pay back even for evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honest clear through.

Now, why is it that we have a tendency to “do unto others as they do unto us”? They do us dirty, we do them dirty.

How come it is an “eye for an eye” and a “tooth for a tooth”?

We're out to get someone. And whatever they do to us, we do in return.

Well, you know what it is? It's the CONFLICT OF RIGHTS.

And you know, if we keep on living by that principle, everybody is going to be blind and lame. That's basically going to be the name of the game. We are finally going to wipe each other out if we just keep going that way.

In the beautiful life, if you're going to turn this thing around, is take the abuse and know that God's going to bless.

Just do it like Jesus.

“Father forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing.”

And don't continue to fuel the fire. The minute you stop giving back evil for evil, you break the cycle. And the first time that you do something positive for the person who has been given the evil, you totally disarm them, disorient them and they don't know what in the world has happened.

Try it, you'll like it. I love to see it on somebody's face when those kind of things happen.

Now this is beautifully displayed back in chapter 2 and verse 23 by Jesus. When Peter says in chapter 2:

1 Peter 2:23

When He was being reviled He was not reviling in return and who while suffering was not threatened, but committed Himself to the One who is judging righteously

What was it that got Peter on that?

Remember when they came up to arrest him? What did Peter do? Whop! Sword up the side of the head! Got a guy right in the ear!

What did Jesus say? “Put up your sword. If I need any deliverance, I could have called 10,000 angels and they would have done a number on this bunch.”

And I don't think Peter ever got ahold of that. And here was Jesus being arrested, treated and abused, and He wouldn't allow Peter to deliver Him—which was the natural human tendency.

In the back of the many of these things are experiences where he failed, in the crucible, and so he was taught. Is there any way in these days we've been together that you have failed?

Now, so that you're happy in your marriage, with your kids, with someone else, and something you wish that you hadn't done, you hadn't said, and it's bothering you right now. You know what? When you confess that and you get that right,

you'll never forget that. And you'll probably never do it again. Because we learn by the things where we fail. And those things are the things God uses as stepping stones to make us more effective for Him. That's being sensitive and allowing Him to work.

6. “not giving back evil for evil”

7. “not giving back...verbal abuse for verbal abuse”

Retaliation—Assumption—Judge someone—and put wrong motives on them say things to them of verbal nature.

Now when you are verbally abused, what do you normally do? You verbally abuse.

I mean, if somebody says something to you in anger, you don't say “Well, bless you my dear, sweet friend.” Do you? You've got a nature just like I've got a nature. And if you tell me that my mother wears combat boots and that I'm a turkey, I'm probably not going to say “Well the Lord bless you, I agree with you.”

I want to say something to you that's going to cause you to want to smack me right in the face probably. And you see, oftentimes that's the way it all starts.

In the marriage relationship, that's terrible. Isn't it? But that's the where it goes. Over here. Over here. Over here. You always! You never! You always! You never! It's like a ping-

pong match!

I mean, it's terrible.

“verbal abuse for verbal abuse.”

You know, we've got child abuse. We've got all kinds of abuses but I don't see anybody writing any books on verbal abuse when really verbal abuse is one of the worst in all the world.

Because you know how badly you've been hurt by words. And how deeply they cut and how hard they are to erase off of the computer of the mind. And out of that verbal abuse comes much of the bitterness and resentment and hatred that we feel. So that's not part of the beautiful life.

Remember back in chapter 1, verses 19 and 26?

James 1:19, 26

You know this my beloved brethren be quick to hear, [this is James] slow to speak, slow to anger. If any man is thinking himself to be religious not holding his tongue in check, he is deceiving his own heart and his religion is worthless.

I shouted aloud and louder
While out on the plain one day;
The sound grew faint and fainter
Until it had died away.

My words had gone forever,
They left no trace or track,
But the hills nearby caught up the cry
And sent an echo back.
I spoke a word in anger
To one who was my friend,
Like a knife it cut him deeply,
A wound that was hard to mend.
That word, so thoughtlessly uttered,
I would we could both forget,
But its echo lives and memory gives
The recollection yet.
How many hearts are broken,
How many friends are lost
By some unkind word spoken
Before we count the cost!
But a word or deed of kindness
Will repay a hundred-fold,
For it echoes again in the hearts of men
And carries a joy untold.

—is C. A. Lufburrow

(source unknown)

Well it's "giving back evil for evil." It's nailing somebody with
"verbal abuse" because we have been verbally abused.

That is not a part of the beautiful life.

The eighth ingredient is to:

8. “be blessing; because to this you have been called in order that you might inherit a blessing.”

Have you read the book *The Blessing*? It’s a good book. It describes how we are to bless each of our children and to call God’s blessing down upon each one.

Do you pray for the blessing of your family? Do you pray for the blessing of individuals? That God would work mightily in their lives? We are those who are the blessers. We pronounce blessing.

We’ve been called to be those who are blessing.

Have you noticed how many times the word “called” has been used in the letter?

Chapter 1:15: we are called to be “holy.”

Chapter 2:9: we’re “called out of darkness into His light.”

Chapter 2:21: we’re called to “suffer.”

This could make a real little Sunday school lesson for you.

And here in:

Chapter 3:9: we are called to be a “blessing.”

We’re called to be a blessing in the face of evil and verbal

abuse.

Why?

“In order that you might inherit a blessing.”

Just take the blessings of the BEATITUDES in Matthew 5 and there are the blessings that become yours when you follow these simple principles that we’ve looked at in these first few verses.

Now we’ve just got a few more here. Let’s get them before us. Verse 10.

v. 10 For “he who is desiring to love life and to see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit.

“For ‘he who is desiring to love life and to see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit.”

Now this is my KEY VERSE for the beautiful life.

You want a beautiful life? And the ingredients that go before and the ones that follow this tenth verse, are the ingredients of the beautiful life.

The ninth ingredient:

9. “let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit.”

You want to write James 3 out there. Goes by that one.

Ephesians 4:25 down to 29, talks about the tongue:

Ephesians 4:25, 29

Finish then with lying and tell your neighbor the truth.
[Verse 29] Let there be no more foul language but good words instead. Words suitable for the occasion which God can use to help other people.

Psalm 34:13

Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.

This is the verse that Peter uses here and quotes in this tenth verse.

v. 11 But let him turn away from evil and let him do good; let him seek peace and pursue it.

Tenth ingredient:

10. “let him turn away from evil and let him do good”

No compromise. A person of conviction who realizes what’s

wrong and wants to make it right. He turns away and he does the right thing.

Have you ever had the joy of that? Where you knew something was wrong and you didn't do it. You did the right thing. What happened?

There's joy unspeakable, full of glory—wasn't it? That's what he's saying.

That's the beautiful life! Yes it's there! But "turn away" from it and let Him do that which is good.

1 Timothy 6:11, 12

But thou O man of God, flee these things and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life whereunto thou art also called ...

Eleventh and final one, of the beautiful life, is seen in this last statement of verse 11:

11. "let him seek peace and pursue it."

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you. Not as the world gives, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Verse 12.

v. 12 Because the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their petitions, but the face of the Lord is against those who are practicing evil.”

The first thing we see here is:

“the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous.”

I put 2 Chronicles 16:9 there:

2 Chronicles 16:9

The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.

Are His eyes upon you? Do you sense His vision in your life, knowing He is watching over you?

“His ears are open to your petition”—are they?

John 16:24

Hitherto have you asked nothing in my name. Ask and you shall receive that your joy may be full.

What does that make you think about? “His ears are open to our petition.” Remember what he said to us husbands this morning? “Lest your prayers be hindered.”

You see, when I fuss with my wife, when I’m out of fellowship with her, He plugs His ears and He doesn’t hear.

Isaiah 59 describes this same picture.

Isaiah 59:2

Your sins and iniquities have separated you from me.

Have you ever asked the question men: Is it because of my relationship to my wife that I don’t have the spiritual dynamic in my life that should be there?

You see, again and again we’re coming back to some of these very same things.

Here’s a promise:

“his ears are open to their petitions, BUT” know it’s hindered if this other is true.

Jeremiah 33:3

Call unto me and I will answer thee and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not.

As for the word “but,” there’s your CONTRAST.

“But [WHAT?] the face of the Lord is against those who are practicing evil.”

Whatsoever a man sow, that shall he also reap.

It’s been a long day and lots of activity. I’m thankful that we’ve been kept safe. Let’s pray as we conclude the evening that the Spirit of God provides safety and blessing in the days that are before us.

Father, we thank you. We’ve had so many experiences packed into these few days. Father, these verses today are verses that convict us. They focus on our deeds and on our words. We know if we took these eleven ingredients, that they portray the beautiful life, we would have a perfect picture of Jesus Christ. And we thank You that Your Word says that we can be confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in us will continue to perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. Thank You that You are making us like Your Son. And thank You Father that You use experiences and stresses of life to help us to see more effectively and more clearly the places where we need spiritual development. May this study today of what You have intended for life to be beautiful, will be the standards by which we measure our own spiritual progress and growth in Christlikeness. Father, if there’s someone who sits here in this study with us who is not a Christian, how I would pray that this dear one would be drawn to You and receive the Lord Jesus Christ. And then Father, for those who

might be sitting here out of fellowship with You at this moment, may that be restored in an instant by an acknowledgment of sin and making things right. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PATTERN NUMBER SEVEN – LIFE CAN BE BEAUTIFUL – 1 **PETER 3:8-12**

KEY VERSE 3:10

v. 8 Finally, all of you be united in spirit, sympathetic, loving the brethren, tenderhearted, humble-minded;

v. 9 not giving back evil for evil, or verbal abuse for verbal abuse, but on the other hand, be blessing; because to this you have been called in order that you might inherit a blessing.

v.10 For “he who is desiring to love life and to see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit.

v.11 But let him turn away from evil and let him do good; let him seek peace and pursue it.

v.12 Because the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their petitions, but the face of the Lord is against those who are practicing evil.”

NOTES

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 1 Peter 3:8-12 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. Whereas Peter was speaking to husbands and wives in the last section, to whom is he speaking in this section?

3. What five things does he ask us to do in verse 8?

4. What do you think Peter means when he asks us to be “tenderhearted?”

5. What does he mean by “verbal abuse” in verse 9?

6. What are we supposed to do in verse 10 if we would be those who love life and want to see good days?

7. What two things does Peter ask for in verse 11?

8. What promise is given in verse 12 for the righteous?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Reexamine the 11 ways life can be made beautiful and let the Lord produce these qualities in your life.

LESSON #2: Life is beautiful as I am submissive.

LESSON #3: The number one priority is united in Spirit.

Psalm 133:1: “Behold how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity.”

LESSON #4: Have you learned to feel deeply with others who are suffering.

LESSON #5: Do you love your brothers and sisters with the love of Christ? (John 13:34-35)

LESSON #6: Are you allowing the Spirit of God to control your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from speaking deceit?

LESSON #7: Are you victorious in turning away from evil and doing good?

LESSON #8: Are you seeking peace and pursuing it?

LESSON #9: Peace will be your portion when your surrender is complete.

LESSON #10: Is it a comfort to you that the eyes of the Lord are upon you and His ears are listening to your requests?