

HOPE

IN ALL SEASONS

Living for Heaven in a World Going to Hell 1 Peter 3:8-22 Message Reflection Guide

Seeking to take revenge against other people who have hurt you causes the hurt that they have done to you to enter into you – to give you bitterness and angst within that eats away at who you are and spoils your life. If you wish to inherit the blessing to which you are called, then you must bless those who have even done evil to you. What a high calling!

Peter quotes from Psalm 34 to describe why this kind of behavior is practical as well as commendable. And the answer to that question is quite simply is that it is the kind of behavior that God blesses.

This is why we must not return evil for evil. This is why we must seek peace and pursue it. Because God blesses that kind of life. Therefore, if you “love life” and wish to “see good days,” be the kind of person who pursues peace, returns blessing for evil, and is righteous – kind, compassionate, loving, and forgiving – that you might inherit the blessing you pronounce on others. May God give us all his grace to pursue this strategy of biblical living even in the midst of our exilic journey in this world. – Dr Josh Moody

CONVERSATION STARTER

What is your favorite aspect of fall?

GETTING INTO THE SCRIPTURES READ 1 Peter 3:8-22

Pastor Jason said: **The “pull” or presence of God can help us to live for heaven and proclaim the Gospel.** In what ways have you recently sensed the presence of God in your life?

Living for Heaven starts now. What spiritual disciplines have you been neglecting? What is a simple step that you can take this week to get back on track?

Living for Heaven requires a ministry mindset. When you think of the contrasts between a misery mindset and a ministry mindset (see chart next page). Which misery mindset do you struggle with the most? Why do you think that is? Which ministry mindset would you like to grow in?

Living for Heaven is only possible through Jesus. 1 Peter 3 vs 22 promises us that “*Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.*” What can cause you to lose trust in that promise? What have you experienced that has proven this promise to be trustworthy?

CHALLENGE

How is your response to suffering different from that of Jesus, Peter and Paul? Are you choosing a misery or ministry mindset? How can you represent the hope of Jesus to someone who is suffering?

MISERY VS MINISTRY MINDSET

MISERY MINDEST	MINISTRY MINDSET
complaining	praying
resisting	serving
shaming	offering grace
insulting	loving
dragging others down	blessing/encouraging others
getting revenge	seeking justice
messenger is offensive	<i>message of Jesus is offensive</i>