

# Peter – A Survival Guide for the Believer – Help Sheet #5

## 1) First Things

- What does survive mean?
- Be ready, bold, respectful, loving witnesses, not religious milquetoast.
- Examples?

## 2) 1 Peter 3:8-12

*<sup>8</sup> Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another. Show sympathy, brotherly love, compassion, and humility.<sup>9</sup> Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. Instead, speak a blessing because you were called for the purpose of inheriting a blessing.<sup>10</sup> Indeed:*

*Let the one who wants to love life and to see good days keep his tongue from evil and his lips from saying anything deceitful.<sup>11</sup> Let him turn from evil and do what is good. Let him seek peace and pursue it.<sup>12</sup> For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their requests. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.*

- Finally ... make a conscious decision to ...!
- How to live as believers with believers in an unbelieving world.
- Peter wants believers to know that he is not just “batting abstract ideas around that have no connection with reality. This is reality!” (Jeske)
- Psalm 34 - The choices believers make matter.
- Courage in suffering and acts of love do not go unnoticed!

## 3) 1 Peter 3:13-16

*<sup>13</sup> Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you should happen to suffer because of righteousness, you are blessed. Do not be afraid of what they fear, and do not be troubled.*

*<sup>15</sup> But regard the Lord, the Christ, as holy in your hearts. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that is in you. <sup>16</sup> But speak with gentleness and respect, while maintaining a clear conscience, so that those who attack your good way of life in Christ may be put to shame because they slandered you as evildoers.*

- What's the answer to the rhetorical question in v13?
- “We have nothing to fear but fear God.”
- Be ready to give a “defense.”
- That's a big “but” in v.16!

## 4) 1 Peter 3:17-22

*<sup>17</sup> Indeed, it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil, <sup>18</sup> because Christ also suffered once for sins in our place, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in flesh but was made alive in spirit, <sup>19</sup> in which he also went and made an announcement to the spirits in prison. <sup>20</sup> These spirits disobeyed long ago, when God's patience was waiting in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In this ark a few, that is, eight souls, were saved by water. <sup>21</sup> And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the body but the guarantee of a good conscience before God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup> He went to heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.*

- Shout out to two key doctrines:

- The descent into hell, and
- The saving power of baptism. It is a “means” of grace!

***Something from the ESV Study Bible:***

3:19 Christ *made an announcement* to the *spirits in prison* (that is, to the Devil, the evil angels, and their followers) during his descent into hell after his triumphant death on the cross. The words *triumphing over them* in Colossians 2:15 show us that the picture here is that of the victory parade of a Roman general, in which he publicly displayed his conquered enemies in chains. Jesus descended into hell, where he publicly displayed before all who were there (*the spirits in prison*, 1 Peter 3:19) that he had defeated Satan and his angels. Peter cites the unbelievers of Noah’s day as a prime example of the *spirits in prison*. The time of Jesus’ descent into hell was apparently immediately after he had risen from the dead and before his post-resurrection appearances.

- It’s a “guarantee” not just a lofty platitude! Hold onto that.

***More from the ESV Study Bible:***

3:21 Or *legal claim*, or *assurance*, or *pledge*, The Greek word translated *guarantee* later came to mean “an official confirmation.” This verse clearly says that *baptism saves*. God washes away sin through baptism (Ephesians 5:26). So, in baptism the believer has a *guarantee* or legal claim of a good conscience. If baptism is called a *pledge*, it must be understood that the essence of baptism is God’s pledge to us, not our pledge to God.

- Another important phrase – “the right hand of God.” The ivory tower vs. the omnipotent operations and control center.