

PREPARED TO LIVE IN VICTORY: THE WAY TO ENJOY LIFE AND SEE GOOD DAYS

Houses of Light Church • August 6 y 7, 2022 • Pastor Netz Gómez

1 Pet. 3:9-12

"Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. ¹⁰ For "Whoever desires to love [enjoy] life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; ¹¹ let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. ¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The reasons it really matters to focus on these verses is because most of us may wonder how can we really love our enemies? This is what Peter is answering here, how can our hearts be moved to truly bless those who curse us? And we are going to analyze what reasons the Holy Spirit gives us through Peter and how he uses the Old Testament (Ps. 34:12-16a) so that we do not repay evil for evil.
- B. Last time we talked about this command "***Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called***" refers to what he said before; so he is telling us: do not repay evil for evil because you were called to be like Jesus (1 Pet. 2:23). And so he exhorts us: ***'love so that you may inherit a blessing.'*** We do not pay evil for evil, but we bless those who curse us because we were called to inherit a blessing.
- C. Let's notice the difference, **one motivation is to bless those who treat you badly so that you can inherit a blessing** and the other is: **bless those who treat you badly because you have an inheritance. Both interpretations are biblical.** The question is which of the two did Peter intend to speak here? Are we being motivated so that our act of love is a path of access to blessing? Or are we motivated because we think we already have an inheritance?
- D. In 1 Pet. 2:24 we read: ***"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed."*** So, Christ died for us so that we can live for righteousness; our living to righteousness does not earn the benefits of the cross. He died for us, that comes first, He purchased our inheritance, we are secure in Him, our sins were forgiven, and now we live lives of righteousness.
- E. Although the Scripture also teaches us and promises that we live for justice so that we can have the inheritance for which He died; **we did not earn it but it is the necessary path to get it.**

Lk. 6:35 "But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil."

- F. Peter puts the word **"because"** to give us powerful reasons and quotes a passage from the Old Testament (**Ps. 34:12-16**) to show us what is the incentive and the reason why we should bless those who treat us badly, affirming that then we will see good days and the eyes of the Lord will be upon us and his ears attentive to our prayers.

II. WHAT IS THE KIND OF LIFE THAT GOD BLESSES?

v. 10-11 "For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; ¹¹ let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it."

A. There are four incentives that motivate us to bless instead of cursing:

1. **"For "Whoever desires to love [enjoy] life"**: Loving here does not mean doing good to life, it means enjoying the life that God gives us.
2. **"The one who wishes to see good days"**: Good days are the opposite of bad days when everything that happens to us is ruining and destroying us.
3. **"Whoever wants the eyes of the Lord attentive to him and his prayers"**: It is having the approval and attention of God, which is a powerful motivation. These are the rewards that come from not being overcome by evil but overcoming evil with good. (**Rom. 12:21**)

B. We are given six commandments if we want to see good days:

1. **"let him keep his tongue from evil"**: Don't curse, It is impressive to note how the way we decide to speak has such an impact on the quality of life that we are having.
2. **"his lips from speaking deceit"**: Do not lie; deceiving someone is evil. You don't love people when you cheat on them. In general, people cheat to advance their own purposes at the expense of others.
3. **"let him turn away from evil"**: Overcome stubbornness. Do not persevere in doing things your way. You must repent of evil.
4. **"do good"**: You don't live a life where you only avoid the bad, Christians do the good, actively speak the truth...
5. **"Busca la paz"**: We actively seek peace and promote reconciliation, we are peacemakers (**Matt. 5:9**).
6. **"y síguela"**: We stay on this path even though people don't respond immediately. We must seek peace not conflict and continue in that direction.

Rom. 12:18 "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all."

C. We are given a strong warning that we should bless those who curse us:

v.12c "But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

1. The Word is speaking to us of the life that God blesses now and forever and also against the kind of life that God opposes, not only now but forever..

1 Pet. 5:5b "...Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

2. If we don't respond as He says, His face will be against us, this was the same thing He said to the husbands.

1 Pet. 3:7 "In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered."

- D. **The logic of this passage is that it is absolutely correct to think this way: A life lived in love (which does not curse or deceive) is blessed by God and God opposes a life of wickedness and deceit.** We are encouraged to have God's blessing and to flee God's opposition against us.
- E. **If you want to see days that bring good to your life, you must live like this. The way we live determines whether we will have joy or whether we will experience destructive evil.** That is why we must guard our tongue from evil; We don't curse, we don't lie.
- F. The question that arises is: can we Christians who have trusted Christ still think in those terms, that we have been promised blessings now and forever as an incentive? **The answer is yes.** This is according to the gospel.

1 Pet. 1:18-19 "For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. ¹⁹ It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God." (NLT)

- G. This text shows us that righteousness, living a righteous life, is a fruit of Christ's death and is a fruit of being united with Him. We did not make our way by ourselves to be united with Christ, He made the way.
- H. When Christ died for us, he not only rescued us from hell but from the wrong way of life, from speaking deceitfully and wickedly, from doing bad things, from being unjust, vindictive and going against peace.

III. CONCLUSION

- A. **The point of this section is that we can be motivated by the promise of enjoying God in life and seeing good days instead of bad and destructive days if we respond with blessing to those who treat us badly.** On the other hand we are also warned by the warning and fear that the Lord is against those who do evil and all this is not because we earn His favor but because we honor the precious blood of Christ who died to make us people who do and they speak good. As lived by the apostles.

1 Cor. 4:12b-13a "...[the apostles] We bless those who curse us. We are patient with those who abuse us. ¹³ We appeal gently when evil things are said about us. Yet we are treated like the world's garbage..."

- B. In this passage we see a clear connection between our words, our doing well and the blessing we receive to enjoy a good life and have the guarantee of the Lord's attention and answer to our prayers..

IV. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. List at least three reasons why we Christians can really bless those who curse us.
2. What is the kind of life that God blesses and how do you feel that you are living it?
3. What is your greatest struggle to bless and pray for those who offend or mistreat you?

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Youth Service this Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. (Junior High and High School).
2. The preparation class for quinceañeras (fathers and daughters) will be this Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Please register at www.housesoflight.org
3. Women's Retreat August 19 and 20, please register at the bookstore or at www.housesoflight.org
4. The Passion for Jesus and Leadership Summit Conferences will be from September 8 to 10. Please register online www.pasionporjesus.la or at the table outside.
5. Our ministry for 1-2 year olds has already started; It is located in the class room that is next to the bookstore.