

PREPARED TO LIVE IN VICTORY: MIND YOUR BUSINESS AND DO GOD'S WORK

Houses of Light Church • March 11-12, 2023 • Pastor Netz Gómez

1 Pet. 4:14-15

“ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler.”

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. This section with which we are taking up the series of teachings of 1st Peter the apostle expresses the counterculture of the kingdom. We live in a world in which many people are offended and living offended has become a lifestyle and even a weapon to justify selfishness and even aggressiveness, but the Holy Spirit through Peter tells us that when we are insulted we are blessed. because it is a demonstration that the Holy Spirit rests on us.

Jn. 15:18-19 “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you”

II. DO NOT SUFFER FOR DOING EVIL

- A. Why does Peter point out something as obvious as not suffering for doing wrong? It seems that some did feel that there was some merit in suffering for those causes because the point was simply to suffer as part of a purification process. But we must know that **God does purify us in trials, but his trials are not the same as getting us into trouble for doing bad things.**

1 Pet. 1:6-7 “In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

1 Ped. 2:19-20 For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God”

- B. Some thought that suffering of any kind was beneficial but Peter clarifies what kind of suffering he is referring to.

1 Ped. 3:16-17 “having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

- C. Undeserved suffering for doing good is better than suffering received for doing bad. It is very different to suffer for doing what is bad than for doing

what is good (1 Pet. 3:17). There is no honor in suffering for our sins (1 Pet. 2:19). Injustice against you is better than your doing injustice. Before God it is better that you prefer to be the person whose house was robbed than to be the thief. Do not give priority to the value of not suffering over the value of doing good. That is to say, that you prefer to do the right thing even if this implies suffering. Life is not about avoiding suffering at all costs but about doing what is right before God even if sometimes that means suffering.

Mi. 6:8 "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

III. WHY DOES PETER SPECIFICALLY MENTION THESE SINS?

- A. ***"...hommurderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler."*** These sins range from the more serious like killing someone to the more harmless seeming like meddling in other people's business.
- B. It is very likely to think that Peter chose these five sins because to whom he writes, ***they were people who had suffered in different measures.*** Some had suffered less and others very severely. Peter is telling us: *'I don't want you to suffer for the worst things or for those that seem less serious; I want them to be blameless.'*
- C. ***"Let none of you suffer as a murderer"*** When someone has hurt you severely, as was the case with these early Christians, the temptation can be to kill that person off, especially if they put you or someone you love or someone you love in prison. he did worse than that.
- D. ***"thief"*** In the case of theft, perhaps many had already been stripped of everything they had (Heb. 10:34) and the temptation was to steal something from those who had stolen from you just to get even. When a Christian is caught stealing, everything he has said about having *"an incorruptible, undefiled and unfading inheritance reserved in heaven"* (1 Pet. 1:4) would ring empty because you are acting in a contradictory way, violating your values and your christian ethics.
- E. ***"evildoer"*** The word evildoer is the opposite of the one that Peter and Jesus use over and over again stating that our calling is to do good works because that is what will make people glorify God.

Matt. 5:16 "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that[b] they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

1 Ped. 2:12 "Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation."

- F. The first reason to avoid evil is because you want your life to be known for good deeds because that way people will give glory to God, if in the midst of suffering, you are not gossiping, stealing but repaying good for evil.

1 Pet. 3:9 "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."

- G. When we go through unfair things that were not provoked because we did wrong, we must trust that the Lord is the one who will do us justice and not try to take revenge.

Psal. 37:7 "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!"

- H. ***"...by meddling in other people's business"*** The last sin that Peter uses is the most peculiar of all; non-nosy, which is meddling in other people's business. It seems that this was a major problem in the first century churches because Paul also mentions it:

2 Thes. 3:11-12 "For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. ¹² Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living."

1 Thes. 4:11-12 "and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, ¹² so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one."

Tit. 1:12 "One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."

- I. There were people who had a reputation for being lazy, not working, and meddling in what was none of their business. Pedro says don't be a lazy unemployed person who has nothing else to do than see what others do. One of the dangers in the hyper-communication era in which we live is that we can spend watching what others do and waste time on matters that do not concern us.

Ef. 5:16 "making the best use of the time, because the days are evil"

- J. It is possible that Peter elevates the sin of being nosy to a matter of concern because without realizing it we can have the wrong approach in life.

IV. HAVING A CORRECT APPROACH

1 Pet. 2:11 "Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul." (1:11)

- A. Peter is telling you, this current world is not your home, you are foreigners, but don't think that you should not worry about working in this world, nor to make any difference in the place where you live. This approach can lead to being lazy and nosy and Peter tells us: Being a pilgrim is not the same as not being involved in this world, you are called to use your talents and be faithful here on this earth. Being a foreigner in this world means that you are going to see what is happening in a different way and you are going to act like what God called you to be.

1 Pet. 2:9 "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

- B. God put us in this time and in the places we live and work to be light to those around us and this is our time to proclaim His wonderful works!

V. OUR TWO WEEKS OF EVANGELISM ARE COMING UP!

- A. Our purpose is to bring the light of Jesus to every city where God has placed us.**
- 1. The week of March 18 to 26 we will be praying with our 3x3 prayer guides for people who need to know Jesus**
 - 2. The week from the 20th to the 25th, each leader of the Friendship Group chooses key places to meet with his group to evangelize.**
 - 3. The week of March 27 to 31 we will be going out with the Friendship Groups and the 'Circuit Riders' teams to pray and testify in different cities. The House of Prayer will be open that week from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the main sanctuary preparing the spiritual environment and supporting all those who will be going out to evangelize.**
 - 4. The service on Saturday, April 1 will be held regularly at 6:00 p.m. and on Sunday, April 2 we will move our two Sunday services to the LA Memorial Coliseum / The Torch at 3911 S Figueroa St, Los Angeles, CA 90037. The event is free but we must register at: www.hopecalifornia.ticketspice.com/hope-fest-la**
 - 5. Finally we will celebrate Resurrection Weekend April 8 and 9 during our three regular services (Saturday 6:00 p.m. and Sunday 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.) by inviting friends, family, acquaintances, and strangers to our services to listen. the gospel and make your public profession of faith.**

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. Our Effective Parenting course and Our classes for children's presentation start on Wednesday, March 15 by Zoom at 7:00 p.m. Please register at www.hosuesoflight.org**
- 2. Information on the preparation events for Easter Weekend will be available on our website www.hosuesoflight.org For more details you can also ask your Friendship Group leader.**