

Session 7: The Christian's Responsibility

1 Peter 4:9-11, "Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen."

Note: Peter still thinks "the end is near"...but still urges the Christian to stay active. Most people who think the world is going to end or that Jesus is going to come back tomorrow pulls into a shell and rejoices with himself...living like a hermit...or pulling his close family into them waiting for Christ to come back.

Not Peter....He urges Christians to keep on trucking, keep on living, and keep on giving time and strength to helping fellow man.

What does Peter urge the Christian to do?

- **Be hospitable...without hospitality the early church could not have existed.**

Missionaries...did not stay in local inns...but in homes of faithful and hospitable Christian families.

Peter lodged with Simon the tanner (Acts 10:6) and Paul with Mnason of Cyprus (Acts 21:16)...an early disciple.

The local churches needed the hospitality of Christian families...

For 200 years there were no such thing as church buildings...only churches that met in homes, i.e. Priscilla and Aquilla's (Romans 16:5; 1 Corinthians 16:19)...Also, Philemon's home (Philemon 2).

To worship, they met in homes.

- **The Christian is given to hospitality (Romans 12:13)**
- **The Bishop is given to hospitality (1 Timothy 3:2)**
- **The widows of the church lodged strangers (1 Timothy 5:10)**
- **All Christians...are urged to be hospitablebecause we might not be aware that we are entertaining angels when we offer them hospitality (Hebrews 13:2)**

Those on the right hand... "I was a stranger and you welcomed me"....but...on the other hand?

- **Give your gifts ungrudgingly...to the service of the community. In services or in monetary rewards one can give (time, talents, and finances).**
- **The Christian must be aware that nothing he possesses of material goods or personal qualities are his own....all belong to God.**

Even what you say should be recognized that it should be understood that we are to speak of God and speak clearly with a passion for God's wisdom.

As a preacher...First, listen to God...then speak to men.

To paraphrase...Peter is saying, "If a man has the duty of preaching, let him preach not as one offering his own or other's opinions, or his own prejudices...but as one with a message from God."

There lies the secret of preaching power.

Let us go further....as a teacher of the Word, God needs to put the stamp of approval on who teaches and what is taught.

THE AIM OF EVERYTHING IS THAT GOD SHOULD BE GLORIFIED.

WHAT I BELIEVE:

- "PREACHING IS NOT DONE TO DISPLAY THE PREACHER BUT TO BRING MEN FACE TO FACE WITH GOD.
- SERVICE IS RENDERED TO OTHERS NOT TO BRING PRESTIGE TO THE GIVER BUT TO TURN MEN'S THOUGHTS TO GOD."

THE CHURCH SHOULD BE WELL AWARE THAT GOD BLESSES THE HUMBLE AND CONTRITE AND EXPOSES THE MANIPULATIVE AND SELF-SEEKING, SELF-INDULGING PERSON.

1 Peter 4:12-16, "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵ If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler.

¹⁶ However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name."

CHRISTIANS WILL BE PERSECUTED...IT IS INEVITABLE.

Summary: The Christian life brings its own loneliness, its own unpopularity, its own problems, its own sacrifices and own persecutions.

If that is true, it is well to remember that we are to have certain great principles in mind:

- A willingness to be tested
- Our devotion to a principle can be measured by our willingness to suffer for it.
- Any kind of persecution is a test of our faith
- Any genuine Christian will be persecuted
- The Christian who compromises with the world will not be persecuted (by the world....maybe God...but not the world)
- Persecution is the test of the reality of man's faith.
- Persecution...is the way to glory.

"The Cross is the way to the crown. Jesus is no man's debtor and His joy and crown await the person who, through thick and thin, remains true to him.

1 Peter 17-19, “For it is time for judgment to begin with God’s household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

¹⁸ And, “If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?” ¹⁹ So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.”

..We are to entrust (trust) all of life to God!

As Peter believed...it was all the more necessary for the Christian to think right, do right, and live right because judgment was about to begin!
It was to begin with the children of God...the household of God...the family of God!

Peter was thinking of what he knew of the word found in Proverbs.

“If the righteous receive their due on earth, how much more the ungodly and the sinner” (Proverbs 11:31).

Entrust, commit, trust your lives to God...

Greek word (paratithesthai)...technical word for depositing money with a trusted friend.

No banks in ancient times...therefore, when a person left on a journey, he often left money with a trusted friend.

Meaning....Peter is saying, “Deposit all your cares, all your successes and failures, all your assets (your life savings) to the God. Leave them with them with the Creator of life...and continue to be faithful.