

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

1 Peter 3:8-22

Lesson 9

For he who would love life and see good days... This phrase should grab the attention of all believers. In this portion of 1 Peter 3, Peter continues with practical instructions and, then again, points to the example given by our Lord Jesus. Peter teaches that we are blessed if we suffer for righteousness' sake – a contrary thought, indeed. Yet, there is no shame in suffering for doing good. May this truth and the other truths of this lesson powerfully impact your life.

DAY ONE: Read 1 Peter 3:8-22

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

a. 1 Peter 3:8-22 has been divided into three paragraph divisions. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

Verses 8-12

Verses 13-17

Verses 18-22

How would you title each section? Record your title on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

After titling each section, record a title for Chapter 3.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

From previous lesson: *God, Jesus (Christ), Spirit*

New to this lesson: *evil/evildoers* and *good*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 1 Peter 3:8-22. Remember, as you mark the words *God, Christ, and Spirit* to mark any personal pronouns that refer to Them.

3. Peter used the contrasting term *but* six times in this section (verses 9,12,14,15,18, and 21). Choose one of them and record the contrast that Peter made.

4. Scan the text, noting the times you marked the words *good* and *evil*. Summarize what the verses reveal about:

good

evil

DAY TWO: Read 1 Peter 3:8,9

1. Most Christians desire a positive relationship with others in the body of Christ. In our study this week, we will discover what is necessary on our part to achieve this kind of fellowship. Think about this as you list the exhortations given to all believers in 1 Peter 3:8.

Verse 8	Definition
a.	
b.	
c.	
d.	
e.	

- 1.) Next to each exhortation provide a brief definition.
2. 1 Peter 3:8 is a picture of love in action. Throughout the New Testament, godly attitudes and actions toward others is taught. Record from the following verses any additional instructions you receive concerning proper behavior toward others:
 - a. Romans 12:10
 - b. Romans 12:16
 - c. Ephesians 4:32
3. In 1 Peter 3:9 Peter continued to give practical instructions to all believers. If we want to receive *a blessing*, what are we **not** to do according to verse 9a?
 - a. *On the contrary* (verse 9b) what are we to do?
 - b. Give an example of not returning *evil for evil* or *insult* (NIV) but giving a *blessing* instead.
4. Focus on 1 Peter 3:9c. Why should believers follow the instruction in verse 9?
 - a. How does this provide an incentive for you to obey this verse?

DAY THREE: Read 1 Peter 3:10-12

1. Beginning with 1 Peter 3:10 through verse 12, Peter confirmed his instruction to believers by quoting from Psalm 34:12-16a. Compare Psalm 34:12a with 1 Peter 3:10a. Note the differences.
2. What does 1 Peter 3:10,11 instruct us to do in order to *love life and see good days*?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.

Challenge: Much instruction about the tongue is recorded in Proverbs and in James. Find and record one or two of these instructions.

3. Observe the “do’s and don’ts” as you look once more at I Peter 3:10,11. Which of these particularly speaks to you?
4. Notice the promise of 1 Peter 3:12a. How does it encourage you?
5. Keep 1 Peter 3:12a in mind as you read 2 Chronicles 16:9a. What do you learn about the LORD from 2 Chronicles 16:9a?
 - a. How does this motivate you to obey the instructions of 1 Peter 3:8-11?
6. Print the warning of 1 Peter 3:12b here.
 - a. What additional warning does Psalm 66:18 give us?
7. In light of today’s lesson, what connection do you see between obedience and *prayer*?

DAY FOUR: Read 1 Peter 3:13-17

1. At the time this letter was written it was dangerous to be a believer. Christians were suffering for their faith. 1 Peter 3:13-22 was written to encourage believers to overcome their fear and maintain their witness. What do you learn about this from verses 13,14?
 - a. In context of these verses, how does Hebrews 13:5b,6 strengthen your faith?

2. The word *good* is used three times in 1 Peter 3:13-16. Briefly explain what it means to be *followers of what is good*. verse 13b

3. Read 1 Peter 3:14. It is possible to suffer for being a faithful Christian. Think about the phrase *you are blessed*. What does Matthew 5:10-12 add to this?
 - a. *Do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled* (verse 14b). What reminders are we given in Psalm 118:6 and Proverbs 29:25.

4. When we think of *suffering*, certainly *blessed* is not a word that comes to mind. Why should we consider ourselves *blessed* when we *suffer for righteousness' sake*?

5. Write the phrase in 1 Peter 3:15b that tells us what believers should be *ready* to do.
 - a. What should be the believer's attitude when doing this? verse 15c

6. Read 1 Peter 3:16,17. Write what you learn about a Christian's witness from verse 16a.
 - a. Why? Answer from verses 16b,17.
 - 1.) Now, answer from your personal experience.

DAY FIVE: Read 1 Peter 3:18-22

1. 1 Peter 3:18-22 is all about our Lord Jesus Christ. The main focus of the previous verses has been on the Christian and the suffering that can accompany our witness. In 1 Peter 3:18 we find the greatest example of suffering for *righteousness' sake*. Gratefully consider Christ's suffering as you write verse 18 here phrase by phrase.
 - a. Jesus Christ *suffered* and died *once* for our sins – *the just for the unjust*. Why did He do this? Print your answer from verse 18b.
2. The phrase *bring us to God* (verse 18) is a technical term which means “gain audience with the King.” With this in mind, read Ephesians 2:18 and Hebrews 4:16. How do these verses speak to you?

Challenge: Research the meaning of 1 Peter 3:19,20 and share what you discover.

3. Think about the awesome characteristic of God revealed in 1 Peter 3:20. What does the *Divine longsuffering* mean to you today?
4. Read 1 Peter 3:21. With this verse in mind, read Romans 6:3-5 and summarize what water baptism represents.
5. What does 1 Peter 3:22 teach us about Jesus?
6. Contemplate what Christ is doing *at the right hand of God* as you write what the following verses reveal:
 - a. Romans 8:34b
 - b. Hebrews 9:24b
 - 1.) How does knowing that Jesus has gone into heaven and is *at the right hand of God* minister to you?
7. Focus on the phrase *angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him*. 1 Peter 3:22b. How does Ephesians 1:20-23 expand your understanding of this?

DAY SIX: Review 1 Peter 3:8-22

1. How would applying 1 Peter 3:8-12 contribute to a *blessed* life?

2. What are some specific ways you can *turn away from evil and do good*?

3. Why is it better to *suffer for doing good* rather than doing evil?

4. What have you learned from this lesson that has inspired you to be the witness God has called you to be?

5. In light of this week's lesson, write what the following phrases say to you:
 - a. *followers of what is good*

 - b. *suffer for righteousness' sake*

 - c. *be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks*

6. How has Jesus' example of suffering and His glory encouraged or inspired you?

*looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross,
despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

- Hebrews 12:2