

Studies in I Peter

I Peter 3:9b-12

Called to Be Blessed

Sunday, May 10, 2020

Intro: As we move from Peter's admonitions about Christlike submission, we begin to move toward our behavior toward persecution, any level or form of persecution, because of our faith. He begins this section with the admonition to live righteously and quotes extensively from Psalm 34 and later from Isaiah. Peter is obviously well versed in what we call the Old Testament Scriptures . . .don't underestimate this fisherman-become-apostle.

I. We Were Called to Inherit a Blessing

- A. This has both a temporal and an eternal (eschatological application)
- B. Its temporal application has to do with the reality that right living has its own blessing:
 - 1. Freedom from anxiety, less worry about the consequences of our actions
 - 2. Proverbs states, "The righteous are bold as a lion, but the wicked flee when no one is pursuing." (28:1)
 - 3. There are many temporal blessings from stronger immune systems, restful sleep, peace of mind, etc.
- C. But for believers, the ultimate blessing is eternal. In the end, God is keeping the score and both the righteous and the unrighteous will get their just due. We must live with eternity in view because there are no secrets kept from God.

II. Godly Speech

- A. If you wish to really live, if you desire to love and see good days,
- B. You must keep your tongue from speaking evil: evil plans, evil gossip, evil speech
- C. And your lips from speaking deceit
 - 1. This is typical Hebrew synthetic poetry, the second line adds to the first
 - 2. This is more than just speaking evil...which could, in fact be true but immoral to say
 - 3. This is adding deception, the intent to mislead, to lie, to oppose the truth

III. Godly Behavior

- A. To expect God's blessing calls for more than godly speech, it calls for Godly action
- B. An active turning away from evil; an intentional doing of what is good (this is proactive, not reactive)
- C. A passionate effort to obtain peace, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the sons of God." (Matthew 5:9, Jesus in the Beatitudes)

IV. God Also is Proactive—Seeking the Righteous and Opposing the Wicked

- A. The Psalmist pictures God as focused on the righteous; He is watching and paying attention
- B. As a result He always hears their prayer; He listens to what they say to Him
- C. But His face is against those who do evil; in one sense He turns his face away from the wicked, in another—though He still sees--He views them with wrath and judgment