

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What special instructions are given for husbands and wives?
2. How do we as husbands dwell with our wives according to knowledge?
3. How do we suffer persecution today?
4. Is it not easier to suffer persecution when we remember all that our Savior has suffered?

SUMMARY:

In these few verses, Christians are given instructions in living at home, in the church, and in the daily routine of business, school, home-making or whatever their tasks may be. Total dedication to God and His Word is required; and both suffering and effective witnessing are also asked of God's children. ^[SoF: 15] Christ, the Just One, who suffered for the sins of the unjust, is the perfect example for all.

NOTES:

^[SoF:15] We believe that the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ is an invitation for everyone to live a life of abandonment to Him, Who loved us and gave Himself for us - surrendering His personal ambitions and possessions in an unreserved committal to take the proclamation of the Gospel throughout "all the world to every creature".

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #1

January 3, 2010

First Quarter

CHRISTIAN LIVING

LESSON TEXT: *1 Peter 3:1-22*

LESSON SETTING: Written by Peter probably in Rome.

TIME: Approximately 64 A.D.

- I. THE CHRISTIAN IN THE HOME.** 1 Peter 3:1-7
 - A. Wives' Duties - Proverbs 31:27; 1 Corinthians 7:10; Ephesians 5:22; Colossians 3:18
 - B. Husbands' Duties - Genesis 2:24; Ecclesiastes 9:9; Mark 10:7; 1 Corinthians 7:11; Ephesians 5:25
- II. THE CHRISTIAN'S FORBEARANCE.** 1 Peter 3:8-12
 - A. Compassion and Love - Isaiah 58:7; Matthew 22:39; Luke 10:33-34; Acts 16:33; 20:35; Galatians 6:2; James 1:27
 - B. Good for Evil - Proverbs 25:21; Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:27, 35; Romans 12:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:15
 - C. God's Answer - Psalms 34:15, 17-18; Proverbs 15:29; Isaiah 59:1; Philippians 4:7
- III. THE CHRISTIAN AND PERSECUTION.** 1 Peter 3:13-22
 - A. Suffering for Christ - Matthew 5:11; 10:22; Acts 5:41; Hebrews 11:25; 1 Peter 2:20; 5:10
 - B. Christian Conduct - 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Philippians 1:27; Philippians 2:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13; Titus 2:1-8; 2 Peter 3:14
 - C. Christ's Sufferings and Sacrifice - Isaiah 53:3-7; Mark 15:34; Luke 22:44; John 15:13; Titus 2:14; 1 John 3:16

GOLDEN TEXT: *THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE OVER THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ARE OPEN UNTO THEIR PRAYERS.*

1 Peter 3:12

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Acts 6:1-7; 1 Peter 5:1-11

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Exodus 18:13-26;
1 Corinthians 12:12-31;
Ephesians 4:1-16;
1 Timothy 3:1-6

QUARTERLY THEME: The Early Church

TOPIC: THE FIRST CHURCH OFFICERS

INTRODUCTION:

The call of God to salvation through His Son Jesus Christ also is a call to service for Him. ^[SoF:15] As the Church grew, the various avenues of service also increased. Just as Moses found the call of responsibility to be greater than he could handle by himself, and heeded the advice of his father-in-law to appoint others to oversee certain phases of these responsibilities, so likewise the apostles sought relief from the material aspects of service to devote themselves wholly to ministering the Word.

The church today has so much to do, that everyone who is yielded to the Spirit, is filled with wisdom from above, and has a good report soon find themselves facing a very busy life. As faithful service in small things is proven, the sphere of service increases. We soon find that God is the one who actually appoints to service in a truly spiritual church and such a church grows and increases. The qualifications which God has set are high, but when laborers are so chosen, God increases the church. We read in 1 Corinthians 12:28; "and God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondly prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues." Also in Ephesians 4:11-12 we read "and He gave some apostles, and some prophets; and some evangelists; and some pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." Have you found your place of service?

CENTRAL TRUTH: God has a place and a ministry for each member of His church.

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GOLDEN TEXT: *AND WHEN THE CHIEF SHEPHERD SHALL APPEAR, YE SHALL RECEIVE A CROWN OF GLORY THAT FADETH NOT AWAY.*
1 Peter 5:4

What a wonderful promise and assurance and yet we cannot take this verse out of its context. If we read it in that way we see that it applies to those servants of God who have been obedient to His call.

Notice in the two verses preceding our Golden Text what God has to say: "Feed the flock of God, taking the oversight thereof willingly and of a ready mind, not by constraint or for filthy lucre, neither as being lords over God's heritage but being ensamples to the flock." Thus we see that the responsibility of such leadership is great and grave.

However, each of us—if we meet God's qualifications—have a promise too. We are all called to be submissive one to another, to be clothed with humility, to cast all our care upon Him, to be sober and to be vigilant. To such is the promise given that He who has called us to eternal glory by Christ Jesus will make us perfect, will establish, strengthen and settle us after we have endured suffering for a season. In other words He will make us immovable in Christ Jesus. What a glorious promise to all the saints.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF January 4 – 10

- M. Jesus Announces the Church. Matthew 16:13-20
- T. *The First Church Officers. Acts 6:1-7
- W. The Unity of Believers. 1 Corinthians 12:14-31
- T. Gifts for Leadership. Ephesians 4:1-16
- F. Requirements of a Bishop. 1 Timothy 3:1-7
- S. Requirements of a Deacon. 1 Timothy 3:8-16
- S. *Rewards of Faithful Leaders. 1 Peter 5:1-11