

A DEEPER DIVE

1 Peter 3

April 13, 2025

Monday: Reading – 1 Peter chapter 3

Prayer Focus – Spend today in personal prayer. What are you in need of? What is weighing on your heart? Health concerns? Financial issues? Dealing with sin? Are there family members and friends who are lost? Pray for them by name and ask the Lord to give you more opportunities to act in love and speak with grace to them. Lay everything you are dealing with before the Lord. Put 1 Peter 5:7 into purposeful practice.

Tuesday: Reading – 1 Peter chapter 3

Consider this – 1 Peter 3: 8

Peter has written to Christian believers in chapter 1 and 2. Also in chapter 2 he focuses on Christian servants. In chapter 3 he writes to Christian wives and then husbands.

Now, in verse 8, he changes the focus again--to whom is he speaking here? He gives a series of actions that all of his readers should follow. Read this verse in as many different versions that you have on hand. What do you notice about the different ways these instructions are worded? Which version(s) do you find most helpful in understanding what Peter is calling us to do? Go through this list with an open heart and open mind. Ask the Lord to show you where you need His grace and help. Pray about areas which you might be needing help in living up to these instructions.

Prayer Focus – Keep it local. Spend today in local prayer. Remember the prayer requests and needs from Sunday (refer to your prayer list if you keep one on Sundays). Lift up the fellowship at NUBF. Pray for your pastors and elders. Pray for the workers at the church and the ministries. Pray for financial blessing so that the reach of the church can increase. Remind the Lord about what you prayed for yesterday.

Wednesday: Reading – 1 Peter chapter 3

Consider this – 1 Peter 3: 9

In verse 8, Peter shows how he wants people in the church to behave. Unity, caring, love, compassion, humility. Now, in verse 9, Peter tells us how we should respond when we are ill-treated or maligned. How does this verse compliment, or agree with, what Peter has been saying up until now? He doesn't just leave it there. What are we to do when we are treated unfairly? Peter says if we do this, we will inherit a blessing. From whom will this blessing come? This promised blessing might not be immediate, and it might immediately feel better when we "get back" at the people who have mistreated us. But what is Peter's view of this kind of thinking?

Prayer Focus – Pray for our nation. Pray for our leaders. Pray for the victims and survivors of the fires, floods, hurricanes, and other disasters. Pray that in each community the churches can come together to show the grace and love of God through helping the recovery. Remember to pray for your personal needs, and the local needs.

Thursday: Reading – 1 Peter chapter 3; Psalm 34.

Consider this – 1 Peter 3:9

Notice that Peter does not tell us to simply endure or ignore it when we are treated poorly. Here we are acting completely differently than what is commonly called human nature. When we are treated poorly, or ridiculed, or treated in some other negative manner, what is our normal human reaction? Peter is calling on us to not only be different, and act differently, but he's telling us this is the way to be blessed by God. Is this enough of a motivation to make you reassess how you respond to people and situations—both when strangers are involved, and among your family? Wiersbe says that there are three levels that we operate on. “We can return evil for good, which is the satanic level. We can return good for good and evil for evil, which is the human level. Or, we can return good for evil, which is the divine level. Jesus is the perfect example of this latter approach.”

Prayer Focus – Spend today in prayer for the world. Pray for those in war zones like Ukraine and Russia, Israel, Gaza, Lebanon, Sudan, and any other place you know of. Pray for our missionary partners. Pray for those in disaster areas. Pray for a united, active, and gospel preaching church all around the world. Remember to pray for your personal needs, the local needs, and our country.

Friday: Reading – 1 Peter chapter 3; Psalm 34; Ecclesiastes 2:17; Psalm 141; James 3.

Consider this – 1 Peter 3: 10-12

Here Peter quotes from Psalms 34. Do you “love life”? What does that even mean nowadays? I suppose it starts with a right attitude, not based on circumstances, events, politics or anything else. It means that life is a gift from God and we should love that gift. Wiersbe says that, “This is an act of the will.” Does a positive approach to life and living by faith allow us to treat life like something to endure, or escape from, or be cynical or pessimistic about? How is your loving life meter? Do you watch what you say? Peter uses Psalm 34 to warn us to be careful in what we say and how we say things. Also, the Psalmist encourages us to do good, hate evil, and to be peacemakers.

Prayer Focus – Spend today praying for the soon return of Christ. Pray that while Christ's coming is still in the future, God will use you to expand His kingdom. Lift up all of the needs from the week and pray for wisdom and readiness.

Saturday: Reading – 1 Peter chapter 3; Psalm 34; Colossians 3; Philippians 4:1-9.

Consider this – 1 Peter 3

How do we live in this world today and still “love life”? Read the verses mentioned above. Meditate on them and pray that the Lord will help you to keep your mind on the things above.

Prayer Focus – Spend today praying for the Pastors of NUBF and the people who are making things happen on Sunday. Include the teachers, the behind-the-scenes workers, the worship team, the regular attendees, and that there will be new people who come to the service and maybe meet Jesus for the first time.

Sunday: Go to church with the anticipation of hearing from the Lord.

Questions? Comments? Email me, Steve Callaway, at stvc13@gmail.com.