

A DEEPER DIVE

1 Peter 3

April 27, 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: 13

What is good? Who decides? In a wide-ranging article called *The Decline and Renewal of the American Church*, Tim Keller writes (in the section called, “The End of American Cultural Unity”),

Everyone had assumed that secular, pragmatic, common sense reasoning would come to an agreement on social mores. When that failed there was no court of appeal or rationale available in any discussion of moral values. If someone called out injustice by saying: “What you are doing is wrong—because I feel it is wrong” there was no answer for the rejoinder “But I do not feel it is wrong—why then should your feelings about this be privileged over mine? What right do you have to impose your views on me?” Since our society had discarded any shared basis for moral values—religion and natural law—there was nothing left to unite us at all, no basis for a debate.

In Peter’s day, and, probably in most of American history, there was a cultural agreement on authority, right and wrong, in other words, what was “good.” Keller’s article, which is well worth your time googling and reading, addresses the modern problem where we have unmoored ourselves from any shared concept of good or bad. But he also proposes how to address these modern issues.

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: 14; Matthew 5: 10-12

It is an interesting statement that Peter makes about suffering. The NKJV study notes say, “Believers should make certain that when they suffer it is only because they have served God faithfully and not because they have done anything wrong.” What do you think of this statement? Why is Peter particularly qualified to make this statement? In the second part of the verse, Peter is quoting from Isaiah 8:12. If we are suffering or threatened, what does Peter say our reaction should be? In our modern society, we have lots of stuff. Accumulation is one of the things that define our culture. How many people do you know who have a garage full of stuff, and a storage unit? How does this type of lifestyle endanger our ability to respond to threats and trouble the way Peter is describing?

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

Consider this–1 Peter 3:15

Peter reminds us that no matter what, our attitude should be to “sanctify the Lord God in [our] hearts...” What does it mean to “sanctify” the Lord in this way? How should this impact your lifestyle, thoughts, choices, speech, actions, etc.? Attached to this statement is one of the most quoted statements that Peter makes. Note, that we are supposed to answer our critics and questioners, but how are we supposed to answer? Why do you think Peter makes this point? Throughout this section Peter is encouraging us to have the right motives and actions. Wiersbe says, “We must be sure that our lives back up our defense.” What do you think he means by this? How can a life lived wrong, ruin a well-structured defense?

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

Consider this – 1 Peter 3: 16-17

So, Peter tells us that suffering has come on believers and will continue to do so. He does not say that we should be seeking it out, however. But when suffering comes, we should be sure that it is because we have been faithful to God, and not because we have done something wrong. Notice, too, that Peter says, “if it is God’s will.” There is no guarantee that when you follow Christ you will be protected from suffering. But neither is it true that everyone will suffer in life as the apostles and martyrs did. These are issues best left to God. Peter is telling us how we should think and act when and if suffering comes.

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

Consider this – 1 Peter 3

Are you suffering now for following Christ? What’s your attitude? Are you going through a time of blessing? If so, are you using this time to cultivate the right thoughts and habits which will carry you through a time of suffering? How is the example of Christ and that of the apostles during their suffering helpful to us when we encounter difficult circumstances?

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.