

A DEEPER DIVE

1 Peter 3

May 11, 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: 18-22

This section of scripture has caused no end of controversy by Pastors and theologians trying to figure out what Peter is saying. So let's start with verse 18. Here Peter gives us the reason why he tells us how we should act and respond to people and troubles. Some adjectives that Peter uses in this chapter are submission, love, humility, compassion, respect, and blessing. He tells us to do good even when evil is being done to us. We should not fear speaking out, but we should do so in gentleness and respect. Our actions and treatment of others should give us a clear conscience. And he tells us that God rewards those who suffer for doing good.

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: 18-22

Verse 18 is a pretty straight-forward statement about Christ. Peter says Christ was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit. We know that the resurrected Christ was not just a "spirit." How did Jesus prove that he was not just a spirit but had physical form after his resurrection? The idea that Jesus' body was just an illusion and he was spirit is an early-church heresy called Docetism. Why is it vital that we do not fall under the sway of this kind heretical teaching?

The ESV study Bible notes say, about this issue, "'in the flesh' means in the visible, physical realm, in which Jesus was crucified, and 'in the spirit' means in the invisible, spiritual realm where Christ now lives. Another view is that Jesus died physically, but was raised from the dead by the Holy Spirit." What do you think of these various interpretations?

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 3:18-22

Verse 19 has created a couple of thousand years of debate in the church. Who are these “imprisoned spirits”? Why does he bring up Noah? And what about baptism? People have written lengthy books about these questions, and churches have built up doctrines around them. I’m not going there. Instead, I like how Wiersbe approaches these issues in his commentary on 1 Peter: BE Hopeful.

Wiersbe first introduces 18-22 as the “Ministry of Christ.” Verse 18 is the death of Christ. Verses 19-20 he calls the Proclamation of Christ. Verses 21-22 are the resurrection and ascension of Christ. “Christians,” Wiersbe says, “do not fight for victory, but from victory—the mighty victory that our Lord Jesus Christ won for us in His death, resurrection, and ascension. So rather than getting stuck in the weeds, focus your mind on the work of Christ with an attitude of thanksgiving.

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: 18-22

So that brings us to what Wiersbe calls, “the Ministry of Noah.” Noah was held in high regard among the Jews and the Christians in Peter’s day. Noah had his problems. We can all agree with Wiersbe when he says, about Noah that, “if we measured faithfulness by results, then Noah would get a very low grade. Yet God ranked him very high!” Peter then draws a connection between baptism, and the flood. I have a friend who belongs to a church that uses verse 21 as proof for their doctrine that in order to be saved, one must be baptized. In the BE Hopeful commentary, Wiersbe makes this point, “Peter ... was careful to explain that this illustration does not imply salvation by baptism. Baptism is a ‘figure’ of that which does save us, namely, ‘the resurrection of Jesus Christ.’” Baptism is something that the church has practiced since the earliest of days. It is not a stretch to say that the believers that Peter was writing to had been baptized. If you have not yet been baptized, but have put your faith in Christ, seek the Lord’s wisdom about it, and talk to your elders and pastors.

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

“The Ministry of Christians Today” is how Wiersbe puts the third subheading of this section. In this section he says the following things, Christians must expect opposition. Christians must serve God by faith. Christians can be encouraged because we are identified with Christ’s victory. Baptism is important. And, The lost world needs to hear His gospel.

N.T. Wright sums up this section of scripture by saying, “this passage is an encouragement to people who are likely to suffer unjust treatment from the human authorities ... this [suffering] brings them into line with the Messiah himself, who suffered in the same way, but after his suffering, announced God’s victory.”

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.