

1 Peter 3

These are the leaders notes from the Kielder Bible Study Group for the meeting that was held on 7th February 2012

Recap from last time

Peter is continuing his theme of Holiness

- Special stones were mentioned – What were they??
- Then Peter starts to explore how to live a holy life in the midst of unbelievers
- How did he say we should live – as Servants (18-20)
- Some commentators say that the messages in the second part of chapter 2 are some of the hardest in the bible.

Moving on to Chapter 3 which has some pretty controversial stuff in it as well.

1 Peter 3 1-7 Section on living as a married person

1- 6 Wives

Q What type of husband is Peter talking about? - A Unbelieving husband

Q What is Peter really saying here? A Nagging at an unbelieving husband will not make him believe in God. Trust God and give him space to move by how you behave..

Q What did Sarah do? see Gen 12:10-20 & 20:1-18

7 Husbands Note – weaker partner in v7 means physically weaker

Q What type of husband is Peter talking about here ? A Believing husband

Q What type of wife A believing wife

Q What are they to do jointly A Pray together

Q If the husband does not treat wife with respect what will happen to his prayers A They will be blocked.

If a husband then you have something to think about - Your wife is your equal “partner” and an equal “heir” of the Christian faith and all that comes with that. God holds you responsible.

I have heard it being compared to a couple who want to get across a lake and only have a large rowing boat to do so. Realistically they both need to row as the boat is too large for one to do so. If they both row by each having an oar then they have to row together otherwise they will just go round in circles. But someone has to lead in the rowing otherwise this will not work, and there has to be agreement as to who the lead is..

1 Peter 3 8 – 22 Living as Christians Generally – In this section Peter quotes from Psalm 34. It would be a good idea to read it all the way through before moving on to the section in Peter so we can see what he is quoting, and put the quote in context.

v8-12

In these verses Peter gives 6 characteristics on how to live a Holy life – Three things to avoid and three things to do. Q Can we firstly find the three things we are to avoid? A -

- we're not to be nasty back to nasty people (v.9a),
- we're not to tell lies or speak wrongly (v.10),
- we're not to be involved in anything evil (v.11).

Q The three things we are to do A -

- we are to live in harmony (v.8) being caring, loving etc.,
- we are to bless those who seek to curse us (v.9),
- we are to seek good and peace for all (v.11).

Peter also gives us a couple of reasons for doing this Q Can we list them? A

- because the good things are part of the inheritance to which we've been called (v.9).
- because God is watching (v.12) and he will deal with those who do wrong!.

Peter makes it very clear – we can either be doing positive things or negative things, and we should try and do the things that enhance our Christian life.

v13-22 How to act when suffering

v13-15 – know that you are blessed and be ready to witness

Q What does Peter say we should be ready to do? A – Always be ready to witness.

Q So what does this really mean in practice?

v16-17

Q How would we define conscience ? - A A persons inner awareness of the moral quality of their actions.

Q How do we keep a clear conscience as Peter suggests we should?

v18-22

Q Who do we think the spirits in Prison are? He Could be referring to angels 2 Peter 2 v4-5. The message translation is quite helpful here

4-5 God didn't let the rebel angels off the hook, but jailed them in hell till Judgment Day. Neither did he let the ancient ungodly world off. He wiped it out with a flood, rescuing only eight people—Noah, the sole voice of righteousness, was one of

them.

V21 talks about water symbolising baptism. There is the aspect that water is an agent of judgement of Noah and the flood, secondly water symbolises the washing away of sin leading to New life

So to summarise

Peter has been exploring his theme of how to live a Holy life in the midst of unbelievers. He reminds us that it is all about our actions, and how they reflect our beliefs.

I found this quote from Gandi that says quite a lot

*“Your beliefs become your thoughts,
Your thoughts become your words,
Your words become your actions,
Your actions become your habits,*

And he goes on to say

*Your habits become your values,
Your values become your destiny.”*