

A Study of The Epistle of 1st Peter

Theme: "A LIVING HOPE!"

Trinity Lutheran Church - Norman, OK.

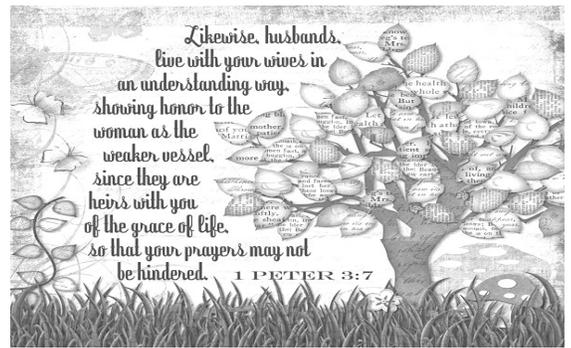
Pastor David R. Nehrenz – www.tlcnorman.org

Lesson: 20

Chapter 3:1-7

Date: 12-20-20

BIBLE TEXT:



(1) Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives-- (2) when they see your respectful and pure conduct. (3) Do not let your adorning be external--the braiding of hair, the wearing of gold, or the putting on of clothing-- (4) but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which **in God's sight** is very precious. (5) For this is how the holy women who hoped in **God** used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their husbands, (6) as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.

(7) Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, **since they are heirs with you of the grace of life**, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

STUDY NOTES:

(1) Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives—

(2) when they see your respectful and pure conduct.

(Gen 3:16; Mt 18:15; Eph 5:22; 1 Cor 7:16; 9:19-22)

(3) Do not let your adorning be external--the braiding of hair, the wearing of gold, or the putting on of clothing—

(Is 3:18-23; 1 Tim 2:9-13)

(4) but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which **in God's sight** is very precious.

(Ps 45:13; Rom 2:29; 7:22; 2 Cor 4:16; Eph 3:16;

(5) For this is how the holy women who hoped in **God** used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their husbands,

(1 Tim 5:5; Esther 2:15)

(6) as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.

(Gen 18:12; Prov 3:25;

(7) Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, **since they are heirs with you of the grace of life**, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

(Eph 5:22-6:9; Col 3:19; 1Thess 4:4)

“Here St. Peter is speaking primarily of the women who at that time had heathen and unbelieving husbands. On the other hand, he is also speaking of believing men who had heathen wives. For in those days, when the apostles were proclaiming the Gospel among the Gentiles, it often happened that the one became a **Christian** and the other did not. Now since at that time wives were commanded to be submissive to their husbands, how much more this should be observed today! Therefore St. Peter wants to say that it is the wife's duty to be submissive to her husband, even though he is a heathen or an unbeliever. And he gives the reason for this.

That is, when a husband sees that his wife conducts and adapts herself properly, he may be induced to believe and to regard **the Christian estate** as proper and good. Even though women have no command to preach, yet they should deport themselves in such a way in the matter of gestures and conduct that they induce their husbands to believe, as we read about St. Augustine's mother, who converted her heathen husband before his death. Later she also converted her son Augustine. This, of course, is an external thing, which should not be done for the purpose of becoming pious in this way. Obedience does not save you, for it may well be that you can find an obedient wife who is nevertheless an unbeliever. But you must obey for the purpose of serving your husband in this way. **For this is the order established by God** when He says to the woman in Gen. 3:16: “Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.” This is also one of the penalties **God** imposed on women. But such conduct, I say, is external; it pertains to the body, not to the spirit.

But it is important to know what kind of works one must perform to please **God**. We should strive hard to achieve this, just as we see that the world has striven to accomplish what it has invented. It is a high and noble treasure for a woman to have when she conducts herself in such a way that she is submissive to her husband, for then she knows that she is doing a **God-pleasing work**. What greater joy can come to her? Therefore a woman who wants to be a Christian wife should think as follows: “I will not consider what kind of husband I have, whether he is a Gentile or a Jew, whether he is pious or wicked; but I will take into account that **God** has placed me in the state of matrimony and wants me to be submissive and obedient to my husband.” If she renders such obedience, then all her works are golden.

... Oh, if married people knew this, how well they would fare! But no one enjoys doing what God has commanded., The reason for this is that God wants peace and quiet to reign in a household. This is one point. Now the apostle goes on to tell how a woman should conduct herself toward other people.

Not only a wife but also a husband should have this internal treasure. Here someone might ask whether or not what St. Peter says about adornment is commanded. We read about Esther that she wore a golden crown and precious adornment, as befits a queen (Esther 2:12, 17). The same thing is said about Judith (Judith 10:3–4). But it is also written here that they disdained adornment and were compelled to wear it (Esther 14:16). Therefore we say: A woman must be so minded as to pay no regard to adornment. Otherwise, when people acquire ornaments, they do not know when to stop. This is the way they are by nature.

...Yet, as St. Peter says here, she must be adorned “in the hidden person of the heart with a gentle and quiet spirit.” You are adorned beautifully enough when you are adorned for your husband...But you must see to it that you wear the hidden treasure and precious ornament imperishably in your heart, says St. Peter, and that you lead a chaste and decent life. It is a good sign that there is not much spirit when so much stress is placed on adornment.

...Therefore, as St. Peter says, wives must be intent on adorning “the hidden person” where an imperishable, quiet spirit dwells. Not only should they shun extravagance, lest they be pushed aside and come to shame; but he means that they should see to it that the soul within them remains in the true faith, lest their faith be harmed.”

LIFE APPLICATION

Explanation of the Order of Salvation (**Gal. 3:25-29**) and the Order of Creation (**Eph 5:22-6:4**). Both of these are in effect concurrently and do not contradict, but rather complement each other.