

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: 22

Chapter 3:10-16

Date: 1-17-21

BIBLE TEXT:

(10) For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; (11) let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. (12) For **the eyes of the Lord** are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But **the face of the Lord** is against those who do evil."

(13) Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? (14) But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, (15) but in your hearts regard **Christ the Lord as holy**, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; (16) yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior **in Christ** may be put to shame.

STUDY NOTES:

(10) For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit;

(11) let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it.

(12) For **the eyes of the Lord** are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer.
But **the face of the Lord** is against those who do evil."

(Ps 33:18; 34:12-16; Is 1:16,17; Heb 12:14; Jas 1:26)

(13) Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?

(Prov 16:7; Titus 2:14)

(14) But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed.
Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,

(Is 8:12,13; Mt 5:10-12; 10:28; Jn 14:1,27)

(15) but in your hearts regard **Christ the Lord as holy**, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you;

(Is 29:23; Mt 6:9; Col 4:6; 2 Tim 2:25; Heb 3:6)

(16) yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior **in Christ** may be put to shame.

(Php 2:12,13; Heb 13:18)

"For the eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, And His ears attend to their prayer, But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good?
1 Peter 3:12-13

Luther's Works – Volume 30

*Let him turn away from evil and do right; let him seek peace and pursue it.
For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous.*

When one person hits another person on the head for doing wrong, the world looks upon this as peace. But this never leads to peace. For no king has ever been able to be at peace with his enemies in this way. The Roman Empire was so powerful that it crushed everything that resisted it. Yet it could not preserve itself by doing this. Therefore this method of attaining peace is worthless.

For even if one enemy is conquered and stunned, then 10 and 20 rise up, until it has to fall. But he who curbs his tongue, turns away from evil, and does good seeks peace in the right way and will also find it. This is a different way from the one pursued by the world. To turn away from evil and do right means to pass over evil words indulgently and to be able to overlook evil and injustice. Seek peace in this way, and you will find it. If your enemy has vented his wrath and has done everything he could, then, if you are forbearing, do not revile, and do not rage against him, he will have to subdue himself with his own power. For this is how Christ also overcame His enemies when He was on the cross, not with the sword or with might.

Accordingly, there is a proverb which should be written in letters of gold. It reads: "To strike back creates strife" and "He who strikes back is wrong." From this it must follow that not to strike back makes for peace. How does this happen? After all, it is contrary to human nature. Yes indeed, it is contrary to human nature. But if you suffer wrong in this way and do not strike back but let it pass, then what follows will happen:

The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those that do evil.

If you do not take vengeance and do not repay evil with evil, the Lord is up in heaven. He cannot tolerate wrong. Therefore he who does not strike back must be in the right. For these the Lord has regard. His ears are open to their prayer. He is our Protector. He will not forget us. Therefore we cannot be out of His sight. With this we should comfort ourselves. This should move a Christian to suffer all wrong with patience and not to requite evil. When I consider this in the right way, I see that the soul of him who wrongs me must burn eternally in the fire of hell.

Therefore a Christian heart must say: "Dear Father, since this person incurs Thy anger so horribly and hurls himself so tragically into the everlasting fire, I implore Thee to forgive him and to do to him as Thou hast done to me when Thou didst save me from Thy wrath." How does this happen? Thus: Just as He has regard for the righteous with His mercy, so He regards the wicked with displeasure, wrinkles His brow, and has turned it in anger against them. And since we know that He regards us with mercy and those people with disfavor, we should take pity on them, have compassion, and pray for them.

LIFE APPLICATION

1. The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer.
How does this affect your daily prayers?

2. In your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience.

What are the situations and ways you can practice this in your vocation and calling?