

21S25 1st Peter 3:8-12 Live in Peace

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope everyone is doing well. Today we are continuing our series on 1st Peter with 1st Peter 3:8-12.

The author of this letter is the Apostle Peter. Most scholars believe this letter was written sometime in AD60-64. The main theme of 1st Peter is “Where does our Hope come from?” for those suffering persecution. This letter was written to Christians living in the Roman Empire and facing persecution because they follow Jesus.

I’m reading from the International Children’s Bible (ICB) again today, I like the plain English in this translation. But of course, you can use whatever translation you choose.

Before we start today, we need to remember what Peter has been telling us in the previous portions of this letter. Peter is reminding us that it does not matter what your status is in this life, slave, free, leader, follower, husband or wife. Everyone who follows Jesus gets the same blessings from God. We need to treat each other fairly as Christians, even those who are not fair to us. Even those that hurt us.

Let’s read 1st Peter 3:8-12 (ICB) *⁸Finally, all of you should live together in peace. Try to understand each other. Love each other as brothers. Be kind and humble. ⁹Do not do wrong to a person to pay him back for doing wrong to you. Or do not insult someone to pay him back for insulting you. But ask God to bless that person. Do this, because you yourselves were called to receive a blessing. ¹⁰The Scripture says,*

“A person must do these things to enjoy life and have many, happy days. He must not say evil things. He must not tell lies. ¹¹He must stop doing evil and do good. He must look for peace and work for it. ¹²The Lord sees the good people. He listens to their prayers. But the Lord is against those who do evil.” Psalm 34:12-16

So, let’s slow down and take a closer at 1st Peter 3:8 (ICB) *⁸Finally, all of you should live together in peace. Try to understand each other. Love each other as brothers. Be kind and humble.*

Peter is telling us to try and live at peace with each other. People are people, which means they will hurt us sometimes. We will hurt other people sometimes. We need to try and understand others, how they are feeling, and acting are normally not about us but about something else entirely. Try to show them kindness and love them even when they are not acting very loveable. As, Peter says, “be kind and humble”.

let’s read on 1st Peter 3:9 (ICB) *⁹Do not do wrong to a person to pay him back for doing wrong to you. Or do not insult someone to pay him back for insulting you. But ask God to bless that person. Do this, because you yourselves were called to receive a blessing.*

Praying for those who are mean to you, helps us to forgive others. Remembering God forgave us. This is not easy to do, because our human nature is to fight back. Somebody says something bad about us, we want to say something bad about them. You hit me; I'm going to hit you back. But this is not how Jesus wants us to live. Remember our life belongs to Jesus, so we are supposed to act as Jesus would want us to. Peter says, pray for people who hurt you. Ask God to bless them. Jesus said this also in Luke 6:27-29 (NKJV), *²⁷"But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. ²⁹To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either.*

Peter is expanding on these words of Jesus. We payback evil with good because God paid back our evil with grace. When we treat others with kindness when they hurt us, our lives show the world Jesus.

Peter ends this section with an excerpt from Psalm 34. Let's look closer at 1st Peter 3:10-12 (ICB)¹⁰*The Scripture says, "A person must do these things to enjoy life and have many, happy days. He must not say evil things. He must not tell lies. ¹¹He must stop doing evil and do good. He must look for peace and work for it. ¹²The Lord sees the good people. He listens to their prayers. But the Lord is against those who do evil."*
Psalm 34:12-16

Let's Review,

- 1) **Why don't we hurt those who hurt us?** Short answer is because Jesus told us. This is hard for every person because our nature wants to fight back. But when we can love those that hurt us. Pray for blessing for those that hurt us. This shows that God is working in our lives. The world is watching, people notice people like this.
- 2) **How can we change the world?** Just look in the mirror. I've heard it said, it starts with me. How we act, what we say, this can truly change the world. Pray for those that hurt you. Bless those that hurt you. Let God take care of the justice part, you concentrate on being kind even to those who mean you evil. This is truly how we can change the world. One person at a time. Showing them love they don't deserve. And for some, this might be the thing that brings them to Jesus. On less selfish, mean person in the world truly changes the world for the better.
- 3) **What did the Psalmist say would make us happy?** If we really want to enjoy happiness in our life, it can't be about us. If we are focused on making life better for those around us, then our life is better. Do good to others, not bad. Always working for peace. Think about this. Peace is not easy; you have to work at it. But living at peace whenever possible is an excellent way to have a happy and enjoying life. Trust God will punish those who do evil. Trust Him. He's got this.

Let me leave you with this today. If you could stop and pray a blessing for everyone who annoys you or hurts you, how do you think your attitude would change. It's very hard to be angry with someone you are praying a blessing for. It changes your attitude toward them in way nothing else can. Practice this. Peter knows what he's saying.

Jesus knows what He's saying. God knows the best way for us to live. Not only for us but for those around us.

Live at Peace whenever possible.

Let's Pray.

Heavenly Father thank you again for this beautiful letter from Peter. Help me to forgive others. Give me the strength to pray blessings for those who hurt me. I know the change has to start with me. Thank you, Lord, for forgiving me, even though I do not deserve it. I pray this in your Name Lord Jesus. Amen

I hope you are enjoying our study of 1st Peter. I hope you will join me for the rest of this series

Thank you for joining me for @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. If you liked the message, please select like. And Please Subscribe to our channel. Leave comments here, or our website or mail me at kip@punla.org. I appreciate your feedback. Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.