

Believers honor God by sharing His hope with others & by loving others in all circumstances

I. PROCLAIM THE HOPE IN CHRIST (1 PET. 3:13-17) ¹³ *Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good?* ¹⁴ *But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED,*

¹⁵ **but** *sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts^a, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;*

[a--v.15 set apart Jesus Christ as Lord and Master in your life!]

[Warren Wiersbe said "What does it mean to sanctify Christ as Lord in our hearts? It means to turn everything over to Him, and to live only to please Him and glorify Him. It means to fear displeasing Him rather than fear what men might do to us. How wonderfully this approach simplifies our lives! It is combined into a daily attitude of faith that obeys God's Word in spite of consequences as suggested in these scriptures. (**Matthew 6:33** *But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness,* **Romans 12:1-2** ¹*Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice,*

It means being satisfied with nothing less than the will of God in our lives.

One evidence that Jesus Christ is Lord in our lives is the readiness with which we witness to others about Him and seek to win them to Christ."]

II. POINT TO CHRIST'S WORK (1 PET. 3:18) ¹⁸ *For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God,*

III. LIVING FOR GOD (1 PET. 4:1-3) ¹ *Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ² so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. ³ For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.*

We can be encouraged because we are identified with Christ's victory by grace. **Romans 6:5-7** ⁵ *For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, **2 Cor. 5:** ²¹ *He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. **Romans 6:14** For sin shall not be master over you, for you are...under grace. **1 Cor. 6:** ¹⁹ *your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you; **Therefore daily be filled with the Spirit [Eph 5:18c];*****

"Walking in the Spirit" as a disciple not only gives you freedom from the **penalty of sin** at salvation but also freedom from the **power of sin**. The believer's goal in life is to **cease from sin**. We will not reach this goal until we die, or are raptured; but this should not keep from striving for holiness by God's grace. **Hebrews 12:** ¹⁴ *Strive for peace with everyone, and for holiness*

IV. ANSWERING FOR THE GOSPEL (1 PET. 4:4-6) ⁴ *In all this, they are* **Page 2** *surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you;* ⁵ *but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.*

The Spiritually Living already in heaven--2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. & [also 1 Cor. 3:11-16]

The Spiritually Dead--Revelation 20:11-15 ¹¹ *Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, ...* ¹² *And I saw the dead, ..., standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.* ¹⁵ *And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

V. REDEEM THE TIME (1 PET. 4:7-11) ⁷ *The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.* ⁸ *Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.* ⁹ *Be hospitable to one another without complaint.* ¹⁰ *As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.* ¹¹ *...so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen*

Summary/Application:

1. The end times are near, disciples should redeem the time in prayer and love. For a brief description: <https://thelukejourney.wordpress.com/2014/07/20/are-current-events-an-indication-the-end-times-are-near-50/>
2. Be good stewards of God's manifold grace, because of the sacrifice of Christ.
3. Everyone we come into contact with is headed to one of two eternal destinations--heaven or hell. Be ready to proclaim the gospel as directed by the Holy Spirit. Everyone can use the "Red Cards". Keep a good supply along with "Got Life" or other booklets. Ask for guidance of the Holy Spirit every day and follow His lead.
4. Come to the Wednesday night dinner at FBC at 5:00 pm and see a multitude of young adult parents and their children. You can volunteer on Sunday morning or evening or Wednesday night or disciple their parents. Go here in 1st step to volunteer: <http://www.fbcjax.com/files/uploads/BackgroundScreeningFormsPacket.pdf>

5. Finish Strong! Why?

6. Consider ways our Bible study group can hold each other accountable in light of God's future judgment of disciples in heaven & the lost in hell.

7. Memorize 1 Peter 4:7-8 ⁷ *The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.* ⁸ *Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.*