

LIVING AS EXILES

WORDS OF GRACE FOR TROUBLED TIMES



BLESSING OTHERS
AS HEIRS OF BLESSING

1 PETER 3:8-12

1

Introduction

- This is the most robust and extensive letter in the NT addressing the issue of living in a fallen and hostile world for followers of Jesus
- What are the fundamental realities we believe and virtues we are to pursue in light of suffering and the Good News?

2

Internal Virtues of Family Life Together (8)

Finally, all of you,

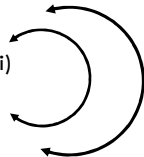
have unified *minds*, (homophrones)

shared *feelings*, (sumpatheis)

sibling *loves*, (philadelphoi)

inner *feelings*, (eusplagxnoi)

and humble *minds*. (tapeinophrones)



3

A Call to Bless to Receive Blessing (9)

Do not *repay* evil for evil
 or reviling for reviling,
 but on the contrary, *bless*,
 for to this you were *called*,
 that you may *obtain* a blessing.

4

The Psalter Pathway (10-12)

For
 “Whoever *desires to love life*
 and see *good days*,
 let him *keep his* tongue from evil
 and *his* lips from speaking deceit;
 let him *turn away* from evil and do good;
 let him *seek peace* and *pursue it*.

5

The Psalter Promise (12a)

For the *eyes* of the Lord are *on* the righteous,
 and his *ears* are *open* to their prayer.

6

The Psalter Threat (12b)

But the *face* of the Lord
is *against* those who do evil."

7

Application

- Meditate, pray, imagine, and practice these 5 virtues in light of the Jesus' treatment of us.
- This includes both fellow sibling-believers as well as those outside the community of faith.
- Ultimately, this is heart change only truly worked by the Holy Spirit.
- Nevertheless, we work in cooperation with the Spirit and are therefore responsible to respond in obedience.
- We ought not to use our security in Christ to hide from our calling to bless.

8