

“The Purpose Of Our Blessed Hope”
1 Peter 3:15

Introduction:

1. Please Turn With Me In Your Bibles To:
 - 1 Peter 3 - As We Continue Our Look:
 - On Sunday Nights - At Our Blessed Hope:
 - As Christians!
 - We Have Already Looked At:
 - The Person Of Our Hope:
 - Who Is - Of Course - Our Savior:
 - The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - We Have Also Looked At:
 - The Power Of Our Hope:
 - Which Really Is The Power Of Christ:
 - Given To Us In The Form Of His Promises To His People!
 - Like His Promise & Power:
 - To Give Us Rest:
 - When We Are Weary!
 - Like His Promise & Power:
 - To Give Us Strength:
 - When We Are Weak!
 - Like His Promise & Power:
 - To Give Us Peace:
 - When We Are Worried!
 - And Many Other Promises:
 - That Empower Us & Fuel Our Lives:
 - As We Live & Serve Him!
 - Last Sunday Night:
 - We Looked At:
 - The Properties Of Our Hope:
 - That Is - What Kind Of Hope:
 - Does The Lord Offer Us?
 - Because Jesus Lives:
 - Our Hope Is A Lively & A Living Hope!
 - Because Jesus Is Excellent:
 - Our Hope Is A Better Hope!
 - Because Jesus Is Everlasting:
 - Our Hope Is An Everlasting Hope!
 - What Jesus Is:
 - Our Hope Is!
 - Because - ***Our Hope In Christ Is Inextricably Linked To The Life Of Christ!***
2. The Hope We Have As Christians:
 - As We Have Already Seen:
 - Is A ***Great*** Hope!
 - It Is In A Great Person!
 - It Has Such Great Power!
 - It Has Such Great Properties!
 - With Such A Great Hope:
 - What Are We To Do With It?
 - Of Course - First & Foremost:
 - We Need To Personally Possess This Hope In Christ!
 - But Once It Belongs To You:
 - Because You Are Trusting In & Following:
 - The Lord Jesus:
 - What Are You To Do With It?
3. What Is The Purpose Of Our Blessed Hope?
 - As We Will See From 1 Peter 3:15:

- The Purpose Of Our Hope:
 - Is To Share It!
 - To Introduce It & To Share It With Others Who Are In Need Of This Kind Of Hope!
 - Even As We Needed It!
 - Even As Someone Shared It With Us!
- 1 Peter 3:15 - "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear!"
 - This Is The Purpose Of Our Hope!
 - This Is What We Are To Do With Our Hope In Christ!
- 4. Now The Context Of This Verse:
 - Deals With Suffering:
 - 3:14 - "But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled!"
 - This Suffering Peter Is Describing Is:
 - The Suffering From Persecution!
 - But It Certainly Can Apply:
 - To What We Are To Do With Our Hope:
 - No Matter What Circumstance We Are Going Through In Our Lives!
 - Even If We Don't Go Through The Same Kind Of Suffering & Persecution:
 - Mentioned Here - Aren't We Always, In Some Way Or Another, Suffering?
 - Because Of What We Face From The World / Our Own Flesh / And Even The Devil Himself!
- 5. So - The Purpose Of Our Hope:
 - Is Share It & To Be A Witness For It!
 - And This Verse Describes The Kind Of Witness That We Need To Be!

* We First See:

1. The Confidence Of Our Witness:

- In 3:14 - Which Again Reminds Us:
 - "But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled!"
 - Peter Tells Us That Whenever We Experience Persecution For Our Relationship With Christ:
 - We Don't Need To Be:
 - Afraid!
 - We Don't Need To Be:
 - Troubled!
 - Instead - We Can Be:
 - Happy!
 - And When We First Read This:
 - We Think - Peter - Are You Crazy?
 - How Can Anyone Be Happy When They Are Suffering:
 - Let Alone For Believing The Truth & Doing What Is Right!
 - **IE:** Yet Peter Was Speaking From Experience!
 - Remember In Acts 5 - When Peter & Some Of The Other Apostles Were Brought Before The Council Because Of Their Preaching Of Christ?
 - The Council Beat Them & Wanted To Kill Them!
 - Acts 5:41 - "And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name!"
 - And So - Peter Is Reminding Us:
 - That Our Happiness Depends Not On:
 - Our Circumstances - But On Our Confidence In The Lord - Who Is Allowing This Suffering In Our Lives:
 - For His Own Purpose & According To His Own Plan!
 - And So - Whenever We Witness:
 - Especially When We Are Going Through Times Of Persecution & Suffering:
 - We Can Be Confident In The Lord:
 - And Happy In Him!
 - We Can Be Confident:

- In His Love For Us!
- We Can Be Confident:
 - In His Protection!
- We Can Be Confident:
 - In His Power!
 - And In So Many Other Of God's Attributes!
 - So - Whenever You Are Called To Witness Or To Share Our Hope:
 - You Do Not Need To Be Afraid Or Troubled!
- Because Your Confidence & Hope Is Still In The Lord!
 - So - Be Confident When You Share Your Hope & Your Faith!
 - Because This Is The Purpose Of Your Hope!

* Second - We See:

2. *The Commitment In Our Witness:*

- 3:15 - "But Sanctify The Lord God In Your Hearts!"
 - The Word Sanctify Is Closely Related To:
 - The Word "Holiness!"
 - Which Is One Of God's Primary Attributes That We See In His Word!
 - So - What Can This Mean - When We Are To Share Our Hope With Others?
- It Does Not Mean:
 - To Make The Lord God Holy In Your Hearts:
 - Because This Is Impossible For Us To Do!
 - God Is As Holy As He Can Be!
 - And His Holiness:
 - Can Never Depend On Us:
 - And What We Think About Him!
 - Instead:
- It Does Mean:
 - In The Words Of Albert Barnes:
 - To "Esteem God As A Holy Being, And In All Our Deportment To Act Toward Him As Such!"
- It Means That:
 - Your Confidence In The Lord:
 - Will Lead You To A Greater Commitment To The Lord!
 - So Whenever You Are Called Upon:
 - To Share Your Hope:
 - You Can "Boldly Say" - "The Lord Is My Helper, And I Will Not Fear What Man Shall Do Unto Me!" (Hebrews 13:6)
- So - Be Confident In The Lord & Be Committed To The Lord:
 - When You Share Your Hope & Your Faith!
 - Because This Is The Purpose Of Your Hope!

* Third - We See:

3. *The Content Of Our Witness:*

- 3:15 - "And be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you!"
 - When It Comes To Sharing Our Hope In Christ:
 - With Others:
- There Needs To Be A Readiness:
 - When You Witness!
 - "Always Ready!"
 - This Means You Are Prepared!
 - I Like What Charles Spurgeon Once Wrote:
 - About This Subject - "Have your doctrinal views and all your knowledge of Christ packed away in a handy form, so that when people want to know what you believe, you can tell them! If they wish to know why you believe that you are saved, have your answer all ready in a few plain, simple sentences — and in the gentlest and most modest spirit make your confession of faith to the praise and glory of God. Who knows but what such good seed will bring forth an abundant harvest?"
- Are You Ready:
 - To Witness & To Share Your Hope?

- This Is The Purpose For Your Hope!
- There Needs to Be A Reply:
 - When You Witness!
 - “To Give An Answer!”
 - “Answer” - A Defense Of Your Hope & Your Faith In Christ!
 - It Is Not Enough To Know:
 - **What** You Believe!
 - You Also Need To Be Ready To Share:
 - **Why** You Believe It!
 - One Of The Ministries That We Use Around Here:
 - Is Answers In Genesis:
 - Because They Help Us With These Kinds Of Biblically Faithful “Answers!”
 - And Apologetics!
 - Do You Have A Reply:
 - When You Witness & Share Your Hope?
 - This Is The Purpose For Your Hope!
- There Needs to Be A Reason:
 - When You Witness!
 - “A Reason Of The Hope That Is In You!”
 - A “Word” Concerning / About The Hope That You Have In Jesus Christ!
 - Anyone Has The Right:
 - To Respectfully Ask You For A “Word” About Your:
 - Relationship With God & Your Hope In Jesus Christ!
 - It Is Not An Intrusion Or An Inconvenience:
 - For A Christian!
 - It Is An Opportunity!
 - Do You Have A Reason:
 - And A Word To Give When You Share Your Hope?
 - This Is The Purpose For Your Hope!
 - We Also See - Fourth:

4. ***The Character Of Our Witness:***

- 3:15 - “With Meekness And Fear!”
 - We Need To Share Our Hope:
 - In The Same Way That Christ Shared Himself:
 - With Us! So:
 - Remember The Kindness:
 - Of Christ’s Witness!
 - Titus 3:3-4 - “For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. / But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared!”
 - Remember The Kindness Of Christ:
 - To You Personally! And Then:
 - Reflect The Kindness:
 - Of Christ’s Witness!
 - There Needs To Be A Kindness:
 - In Our Witness & In Our Words!
 - According To Ephesians 4:15:
 - We Are To Be “Speaking The Truth” – But How?
 - “In Love!”
 - We Need To Have The Character Of Christ:
 - When We Witness!
 - “With Meekness And Fear!”
 - Because This Is The Purpose For Our Hope!
 - But In The Next Verse - We Also See:

5. ***The Conduct Of Our Witness:***

- 3:16 - “Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that

falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ!”

- “Conversation” Here Simply Means:
 - Your Lifestyle! Your Conduct In Life!
 - Not Just The Words You Say:
 - But The Life You Live!
- This “Good Conversation” Can Only Be Obtained When:
 - You Live In Christ:
 - Through Salvation!
 - You Live For Christ:
 - Purpose / Priority!
 - You Live Like Christ:
 - Follow His Steps!
 - You Live With Christ:
 - In His Fellowship / Day-To-Day!

Conclusion:

1. This Is The Purpose For Your Hope!
 - To Share It With Others!
 - With The Right Confidence!
 - With The Right Commitment!
 - With The Right Content:
 - The Gospel Itself!
 - With The Right Character!
 - With The Right Conduct!
 - Can This Be Said Of You?
2. Are You:
 - “Ready Always To Give An Answer To Every Man That Asketh You A Reason Of The Hope That Is In You?”
 - This Is The Purpose For Our Hope!
 - For Your Hope!
 - How Can You Be Ready?
 - Study The Gospel!
 - Share The Gospel!
 - Use The Resources We Have Available!
 - Never Forget:
 - The Purpose For Your Hope!

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