

THE BEHAVIOR PATTERN OF A BIBLICAL CHRISTIAN

1 PETER 3:9-12

Intro: In our last study of 1 Peter, we saw looked at verse 8 and noted five character traits found in a Biblical believer: 1. Like-mindedness; 2. Sympathy toward other believers; 3. Brotherly love toward other believers; 4. Compassion toward other believers; and 5. Kindness and friendliness toward other believers. Today we continue our study with verse 9-12. As Peter has addressed the character traits that should be found in verse 8, in verse 9-12 he discusses the character trait that should NOT be found in the believer, and their replacements.

- I. **Not rendering** (Biblical Christians should not be **vengeful**) Vs 9a
- A. **Rendering**- paying back from one's own possession; a choice that we have the **power** to make
 1. When treated evil or railed upon by others, the **natural** reaction of the flesh is to "give it back to them in like kind"
 2. The **Biblical** thing to do is NOT render to the one doing us wrong the same wrong, or else we **become** as they are
 - B. **Evil for evil**
 1. **Evil**-those things that are troublesome, injurious, wicked, **harmful**, or destructive
 2. Unfortunately, believers are going to be treated evil by others-even by other **believers**
 - C. **Railing for railing**
 1. **Railing**-verbal **attack** by another; harsh, abusive language toward the person disliked
 2. Unfortunately for some Christians, God the Holy Spirit is **not** in control of their tongue
- II. **But contrariwise blessing** (Biblical Christians should behave in a **Christ**-like manner) Vs9b
- A. **But**-This word is a conjunction used to **contradict** what has just preceded it.
 - B. **Contrariwise**-on the **contrary**; "the other side of the coin"; the other alternative
 - C. **Blessing**-Gk. eulogia (yoo-log-ee'-ah)
 1. To **eulogize**
 2. The **opposite** of evil and railing
 3. Instead of repaying evil with evil and railing with railing, repay evil and railing with that which is **supernatural**—the response which only God can enable the believer to give
 - D. Scripture:
 1. Pro 20:22 *Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the LORD, and he shall save thee.*
 2. Pro 24:29 *Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me: I will render to the man according to his work.*
 3. Rom 12:17a *Recompense to no man evil for evil.*
 4. Ro 12:18 *If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.*
 5. Ro 12:19 *Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*
- III. **Knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing** (Biblical Christians will be motivated by Scriptural **promises**) Vs 9c
- A. **Knowing**-remembering what you already **know** from the Scripture
 - B. Remembering we are called to **love** our enemies for the sake of their soul (while we hate their sin)

- C. Remembering we will be blessed of the Lord as we are **obedient** to the Scripture (*ye should inherit a blessing*)
1. **Inherit**-receive from another that which they have, which they give to us **freely**
 2. **Blessing**-that which is **good** from God

IV. *For he that will love life, and see good days* (Biblical Christians want "the **good life**") Vs 10-12

- A. It is not **wrong** to want the good things God has to give his children (**Mt 7:11** *If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?*)
1. **Love life-delight** in the life we have
 2. **See good days**-enjoy being alive each day because of the good that we experience from **God's** blessings to us
- B. To "love life and see good days" the Biblical Christian must:
1. **Guard** our mouth Vs 10
 - a. **Refrain his tongue from evil**
 - (1) **Refrain**- "to curb, literally, cause to cease, implying that our natural inclination and custom is to speak evil." **Robertson Word Pictures**
 - (2) As believers we need to guard **OUR** tongue, and let God take care of other people's tongue
 - b. **Refrain his lips that they speak no guile**
 - (1) **Guile**-deception meant to lead another person **astray** (gossip, false statements, sharing another person's **failures** with someone other than the person who failed)
 - (2) Curb **OUR** lips from speaking guile (again, the **natural** tendency is to do what should not be done.)
 2. Guard our **behavior** Vs 11a
 - a. **Eschew evil**
 - (1) **Eschew**-deliberately stay away or run from, **shun**, or avoid
 - (2) **Evil**-(Same definition as I, B, 2)
 - b. **Do Good**
 - (1) **Do**-behave or give out
 - (2) **Good**- **useful**, excellent, distinguished, upright, honorable
 3. Be a "peace lover" Vs 11b (peace-harmony)
 - a. **Peace**-"The tranquil state of the mind assured of one's own salvation through Christ, fearing nothing from God and consequently content with one's earthly lot, whatever it may be" [Complete Word Study Dictionary]
 - b. **Seek peace**-look for; **earnestly** try to find
 - c. **Ensue peace**-to pursue whole-heartedly; to make peace be the motivator for our **actions** (Heb 12:14 *Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord*)
- C. "The good life" Vs 12
1. **The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous**—The Scripturally obedient Christian has God's attention (**Over**-positioned **upon**)
 2. **His ears are open unto their prayers**—He is listening so as to **answer** their prayers
 3. **The face of the Lord is against them that do evil**—His stands in **opposition** to those who refuse do obey his commands concerning their behavior
 - a. Over and against are the same Greek word with the same meaning
 - b. God's attention is on the obedient believer to **bless** while his attention is on the person who does evil to **remove** blessings they could have received