

LIVING IN COMMUNITY IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY (3:8-12)

1. Six Qualities
2. Scriptural Support (Peter turns to Psalm 34:12-16a).
 - A. We must deliberately decide to _____.
 - B. We must _____ our _____.
 - C. We must do _____ and _____.
 - D. We must _____.

ENCOURAGEMENT IN TRIALS (3:13-22)

Overview: Suffering & trials will come in our lives, but God provides encouragement in the midst of our trials. Christ suffered & so we should not be surprised if we who are identified with Him suffer as well.

1. Encouragement in the Midst of Suffering (3:13-17).
 - A. Do what is _____.
 - B. Be _____ if you suffer for righteousness (3:14, 17).
Read this important cross reference: Matthew 5:10-12.
 - C. In your hearts _____ Christ as Lord (3:15).
 - 1) The word "_____ " was a term used in the courts.
ἀπολογία apologia - an answer or speech in defense of oneself; a defense before a tribunal or elsewhere (Acts 22:1; 2 Tim. 4:16).
 - 2) Give the "_____ " for the hope that you have."
A reasoned explanation; Christianity is not unreasonable.
 - 3) Why should we give the reason for our hope in the spirit of "gentleness" and "respect"?
 - D. Keep a clear _____ (3:16).
Their verbal testimony must be supported by their 'manner of living'.
Christians should be "blameless, harmless, without rebuke" (Phil. 2:15)

2. The Greatest _____ of Suffering (3:18-22).

As before (2:21-23), Peter tho't of the suffering of Christ when he wrote about the suffering of believers. He suffered, & so it is not strange that His people would suffer too. But the Savior handled suffering successfully and so He offers great hope and comfort to suffering saints.

A. The suffering of the Savior (3:18)

A short, simple and rich summary of the meaning of the cross of Christ. Peter concluded his summary of Christ's redemptive work by referring to His **resurrection** (vss. 18-22; cp. 18a with 21b-22).

- 1) The complete _____ of Christ's death.
- 2) The _____ nature of Christ's death.
- 3) The Divine _____ for Christ's sacrificial death.

B. The _____ of the Savior (3:19-20)

"But made alive by the Spirit, thru whom [altern. translation: "in the spirit, thru which] he went and preached to the spirits in prison . . ."

C. Our _____ through the Savior (3:21)

The source of misunderstanding about the relationship of baptism & salvation. Does vs. 21 say that baptism is needed for salvation?

- 1) Noah and his family were not saved "by" water.
- 2) Verse 21 states specifically that baptism does not save us.
- 3) If it did, it would contradict other clear Scriptures.

NIV Study Bible footnotes are helpful:

"water symbolizes baptism"

A double figure or symbol here: 1) the flood symbolizes Baptism; and 2) baptism symbolizes salvation.

"that now saves you"

In reality, believers are saved by what baptism symbolizes—Christ's death and resurrection.

"the pledge of a good conscience toward God"

The act of baptism is a commitment on the part of the believer in all good conscience to make sure that what baptism symbol. will become a reality in his/her life.

"it saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (Rom. 2:25)

D. The _____ of the Savior (3:22)