



Chapter 3

Verse 9- *not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you would inherit a blessing.*

This is the core of Peter's message- How should we relate to a world that is hostile and suspicious? This reminds us of Jesus' teaching on the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5:38-39):

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I say to you, do not show opposition against an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other toward him also."

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Verse 9- *not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you would inherit a blessing.*

you were called for the very purpose- Why would we repay evil with good? Because that's exactly what Jesus did for us. By responding in a non-retaliatory way, we demonstrate Christ's love as we live out the gospel.

Is it hard to return evil with a blessing? No, it's impossible!

(Jesus' Sermon on the Mount) "But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who are abusive to you. Luke 6:27-28"

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Verse 10- For, *"The one who desires life, to love and see good days, Must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit."*

To support his argument, Peter quotes Psalm 34:12-16:

*Who is the person who desires life And loves length of days, that he may see good? **Keep your tongue from evil And your lips from speaking deceit.** Turn from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, And His ears are toward their cry for help. The face of the Lord is against evildoers, To eliminate the memory of them from the earth.*

ABC Bible Memory Cards

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"All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."	Romans 3:23
"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."	Acts 16:31
"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right."	Ephesians 6:1
"Depart from evil, and do good."	Psalm 34:14
"Even a child is known by his doings."	Proverbs 20:11
"Fear not: for I am with thee."	Isaiah 43:5
"God is love."	1 John 4:8
"Honor thy father and thy mother."	Exodus 20:12
"If ye shall ask any thing in My name, I will do it."	John 14:14
"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me."	John 14:6
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"Look unto Me, and be ye saved."	Isaiah 45:22
"My son, give Me thine heart."	Proverbs 23:26
"No man can serve two masters."	Matthew 6:24
"O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good."	Psalm 118:1
"Praise ye the Lord: for it is good to sing praises unto our God."	Psalm 147:1
"Quit you like men, be strong."	1 Corinthians 16:13
"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy."	Exodus 20:8
"Seek ye the Lord while He may be found."	Isaiah 55:6
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"EXceeding great and precious promises are given unto us."	2 Peter 1:4
"Ye are the light of the world."	Matthew 5:14
"Zion heard, and was glad."	Psalm 97:8

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Verse 10- *For, “The one who desires life, to love and see good days, Must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit.*

Peter uses Psalm 34 for ethics and Isaiah 53 for Christology.

He tells his readers who are under persecution that “life” and “good days” are not those free from trouble (material or physical) but spiritual- living in right relationship with Him.

This is primarily in a future sense- an eternal life with God, but there is also a sense of a fulfilled life here on earth.

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Verse 11- *He must turn away from evil and do good; He must seek peace and pursue it.*

turn away from- *ek* (from) + *klinō* (bend) = to lean/bend away from.

Instead of turning away in a general sense, believers are to turn towards something- doing good. Verse 10 concerns sins of the tongue. This verse concerns the whole person pursuing peace.

Often, peace is hard to find and must be pursued.

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Verse 12- *For the eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, And His ears attend to their prayer, But the face of the Lord is against evildoers."*

As Peter contrasts the actions of the saved and the lost and he notes that the Lord sees and knows what happens in our daily lives and hears our prayers.

His eyes are on us, and his face is against evildoers. Even though it may look like they are prospering, they are actually "storing up wrath" (Romans 2:5) for themselves against the final judgment (Revelation 20:11-15).

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Verse 13- *And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good?*

Peter begins a new section by asking a natural question: If you do good, why would you expect anyone to do harm to you?

Peter's readers could be persecuted but not harmed in an eternal sense.

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Verse 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 in dread,*

intimidation- phobon- Intimidation is used to make us fearful.

If we suffer for doing right, we are blessed by God in an eternal sense. No one seeks suffering, but we shouldn't fear suffering more than we fear (respect) God.

Peter quotes Isaiah 8:12: *"You are not to say, 'It is a conspiracy!' Regarding everything that this people call a conspiracy, And you are not to fear what they fear or be in dread of it."*

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

Instead of succumbing to fear as others intimidate us for doing right, we are to *"let Him (God) be our fear and our dread."* (Isaiah 8:13)

It is natural for people to ask why believers retain hope while under persecution. We are to be ready to give a gospel witness (*apologian*) in humility.

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Verse 16- *and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who disparage your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.*

con (with) + *scio* (to know) = conscience, an internal sense given by God to approve or accuse what we are doing. It has been compared to light streaming through a window- dirty or clean?

We are to act in good conscience, so when people slander (literally, “speak against”) us. If we show the love of Christ, their consciences are put to shame (literally, “shamed down”) unless they are seared (*kautérizó*- “to be seared with a hot iron”) as Paul writes about in 1 Timothy 4:2.

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Verse 17- *For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.*

Usually, the conscience of a Christian reveals more problems than they create. If so, it is better to obey God and suffer than do wrong to fit in.

Acts 5:29- Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, *We ought to obey God rather than men.*

“It is better to be divided by truth than to be united in error.”

Adrian Rogers

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Verse 18- *For Christ also suffered for sins once for all time, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;*

Peter uses the best example of one who suffered unjustly but obeyed God- the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

might bring us to God- (*prosagagē* *pros-* toward + *ago-* to bring) A technical word only used in this verse of one who gains an audience at court for another. (Wuest)