**1 Peter: Love and See Good Days**

1 Peter 3:10-12

**Context**

**1 Peter 3:8-12**—*To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit;****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 might inherit a blessing.****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.* ***11****“He must turn away from evil and do good; He must seek peace and pursue it.* ***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 those who do evil.”*

If we are to love and see good days, we must understand what God has said regarding how we get there. Although mankind tries very hard to come up with its own definition of what how that looks, we need to look no farther than His revealed word. God has told us what He requires and has clearly marked out the road map. The problem is not for lack of information; the issue is a lack of trust and faith and therefore a lack of obedience by substituting alternative means.

There is no question that one of the greatest gifts God has given us in His kindness is the truth. That truth is contained in His Holy Word. Because God is the author, the Bible is not only true but authoritative. It is absolutely authoritative in all matters of life.

**Proverbs 6:23***—For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light; And reproofs for discipline are the way of life.*

**Matthew 4:4***—But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’”*

**Romans 15:4***—For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*

**2 Timothy 3:16***—All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness*

**Hebrews 4:12***—For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

Peter illustrates the point he is making in vv**8-9** (that is, not responding poorly to hostility) by quoting an OT passage in Psalms.

**Psalms 34:12-14**—*Who is the man who desires life And loves length of days that he may see good?* ***13****Keep your tongue from evil And your lips from speaking deceit.* ***14****Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.*

**How do we love and see good days?**

1. **Think correctly, v8**
2. **Act correctly, v9**
3. **Focus correctly, vv10-11**

**1 Peter 3:10**—*For, “The one who desires life, to love and see good days, Must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit.* ***11****“He must turn away from evil and do good; He must seek peace and pursue it.*

1. *The one*—here referring back to vv**8-9** for the person who is “*harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit;****9****not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead”*
   1. This is the “one” who desires life
   2. AKA, a Christian
2. *Desires life, to love and see good days*
   1. One might refrain from speaking anything that is evil
   2. Must refrain from anything that displeases the Lord
3. *Must keep his tongue from evil* 
   1. The tongue is a restless evil

***James 3:6****—And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell.*

**James 1:26***—If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man’s religion is worthless.*

**James 3:9-10***—With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God;****10****from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.*

**Psalm 12:3***—May the Lord cut off all flattering lips, The tongue that speaks great things;*

**Proverbs 12:18***—There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, But the tongue of the wise brings healing.*

**Proverbs 15:2, 4***—The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable, But the mouth of fools spouts folly…* ***4****A soothing tongue is a tree of life, But perversion in it crushes the spirit.*

* 1. Not using words to retaliate

1. *and his lips from speaking deceit*
   1. Positively stated: be committed to speaking truth

**Psalm 51:6***—Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom.*

**Proverbs 3:3***—Do not let kindness and truth leave you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart.*

**Proverbs 23:23***—Buy truth, and do not sell it, Get wisdom and instruction and understanding.*

**1 Corinthians 13:6***—[love] does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth.*

**Philippians 4:8***—Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.*

**Joshua 24:14***—Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.*

* 1. Negatively stated: put away lying, deception, and hypocrisy

**Exodus 20:16***—You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*

**Proverbs 6:16-19***—There are six things which the Lord hates,  
Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:* ***17****Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood,****18****A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil,* ***19****A false witness who utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.*

**Proverbs 10:8***—The wise of heart will receive commands,  
But a babbling fool will be ruined.*

**Proverbs 12:17, 19, 22***—He who speaks truth tells what is right, But a false witness, deceit.* ***18****There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, But the tongue of the wise brings healing.* ***19****Truthful lips will be established forever, But a lying tongue is only for a moment.* ***20****Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, But counselors of peace have joy.* ***21****No harm befalls the righteous, But the wicked are filled with trouble.* ***22****Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, But those who deal faithfully are His delight.*

**Zechariah 8:16***—These are the things which you should do: speak the truth to one another; judge with truth and judgment for peace in your gates.*

**Ephesians 4:25***—Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.*

**Colossians 3:9***—Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices*

* 1. It is the heart the controls the mouth

**Matthew 12:34**—You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.

1. Four imperatives that come from v**11**

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

* 1. *Turn away from evil*
     1. To turn aside, deviate (from the right way and course); to shun one; go out of the way
        1. The intensity of the verb is a strong rejection of what is sinful
        2. Specifically here in the context of mistreatment
        3. Even (and especially) those who persecute you

**Matthew 5:44**—*But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you*

**Romans 12:14***—Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.*

* + 1. *Evil* (kakos)—of a bad nature; not such as it ought to be; base, wicked, wrong[[1]](#footnote-2)

**Proverbs 3:6**—*In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.*

**Proverbs 16:6, 17***—In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight…* ***17****The highway of the upright is to depart from evil;  
He who watches his way preserves his life.*

**Isaiah 1:16-17***—Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Remove the evil of your deeds from My sight.  
Cease to do evil,* ***17****Learn to do good; Seek justice, Reprove the ruthless, Defend the orphan, Plead for the widow.*

**1 Thessalonians 5:22***—abstain from every form of evil.*

* 1. *Do Good*
     1. *Good* (agathos)—of good constitution or nature; pleasant, agreeable, joyful, happy; upright, honorable[[2]](#footnote-3)
     2. Excellent in quality to what is at our core
     3. Such a quality is in contrast to “do your own thing” or “do what feels right” or “you be you”
        1. Terrible advice
        2. The outcome of such thinking/actions are disastrous

**Galatians 6:7-8**—*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.****8****For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.*

* + 1. The connection between “good days” (v**10**) and “do good” (v**11**)
       1. Drawing a contrast between Godly living and worldly living; a contrast between worldviews
       2. If we want to experience all that life (*zoen,* rather than *bios*) has in terms of experiences and the richness of living to the fullest
       3. Not merely a sense of “living” as opposed to “dying” but a depth to life

Loves to see good days, i.e. days that are really beneficial and not vain and empty. Dave and Peter are not thinking of easy, pleasant, sunshiny days but a life and of days that are full of rich fruit.[[3]](#footnote-4)

* 1. *Seek Peace*
     1. *Seek*ing here has the idea of intensity and aggressiveness of action (implicit in the phrase is the analogy of the hunter vigorously tracking down his prey)[[4]](#footnote-5)
     2. *Peace* (eirēnē)—a state of national tranquility; exemption from the rage and havoc of war; peace between individuals, i.e. harmony, concord; security, safety, prosperity, felicity[[5]](#footnote-6)

**Luke 2:14***—“Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”*

**Luke 8:48***—And He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.”*

**Luke 19:38***—“Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”*

**John 14:27***—Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.*

**John 16:33***—These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.*

**Romans 5:1***—Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*

**Romans 8:6***—For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace*

**Romans 15:13***—Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

**Galatians 5:22***—But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness*

**Philippians 4:7***—And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

**Colossians 3:15***—Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and thankful.*

**2 Thessalonians 3:16***—Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all!*

* 1. *Pursue it*
     1. *Pursue* (diōkō)—to make to run or flee, put to flight, drive away; to run swiftly in order to catch a person or thing[[6]](#footnote-7)
     2. Christians are to hunt and seek diligently after peace—especially with those who are our persecutors

**Romans 12:18***—If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.*

**Romans 14:19***—So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.*

**1 Thessalonians 5:13***—and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.*

**2 Thessalonians 3:16***—Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all!*

We seek peace and purse it when giving a soft answer when someone verbally attacks us, by forgiving those who wrong us, by avoiding needless quarrels, and by willingly taking the lowly place.[[7]](#footnote-8)

* + 1. God is pleased when His children are peacemakers
       1. That does not mean we compromise the truth
       2. It does not mean that we soften the message

**Matthew 5:9***—Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*

**Romans 12:18***—If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.*

**Romans 14:17***—for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

**2 Corinthians 13:11***—Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.*

**2 Timothy 2:22***—Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.*

**James 3:17***—But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.*

**Conclusion**

When we do what the Lord requires of us, He is faithful to protect and bless us. We do not fear the intimidation of our persecutors and rest in full assurance of His provision.

**Psalm 34:15-16**—*The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous And His ears are open to their cry.* ***16****The face of the Lord is against evildoers, To cut off the memory of them from the earth.* ***17****The righteous cry, and the Lord hears And delivers them out of all their troubles.*

If you’re a Christian, are you happy? Do you love life? Are you seeking good days? If not, perhaps you’re letting Jesus Christ reign in only a few compartments of your life, when He expects you to give Him all of it. You can start by following the suggestions of this passage from 1 Peter.[[8]](#footnote-9)

**Source**

Most of the message and notes come from:

Richard W. DeHaan, Good News for Bad Times: 1 Peter

R.C.H. Lenski, The Interpretation of I and II Epistles of Peter, the three Epistles of John, and the Epistle of Jude

John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, 1 Peter

John MacArthur, Living and Loving the Good Life, Part 2, 1 Peter 3:9, Aug 27, 1989, gty.org

Jerome H Smith, The New Treasure of Scripture Knowledge

[www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org)

1. Strong’s G2556 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Strong’s G18 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Lenski, 144. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. MacArthur, 193. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Strong’s G1515 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Strong’s G1377 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. DeHaan, 92. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)