

With a “finally” Peter winds up his admonishments for the believer’s testimony on an inhospitable earth in a hostile world. As believers our lives are to vouch for the truth of our words. Mutual love with subjection to one another, and to all earthly institutions, is to highlight our walk in Christ’s footsteps and the path He marked out for us. Peter echos the Lord and the other Apostles in urging unity through lovingly considering others as brethren. After all, we anticipate inheriting a blessing together. This prospect reminds us the promised blessing is not earthly and not now. Faith lays hold of that and acts accordingly. He gives both positive examples and negative examples.

Our conduct here on the earth will have a huge influence upon whether we enjoy good days while on this earth. He is not talking about “good days” of self indulgence in pleasures and ease but the good days of spiritual blessings of walking in fellowship with the Lord and His people. Walking in righteousness, peace and love, as channels of God’s blessing to all around us, including the unsaved. Yet as we do live according to these exhortations we generally will experience a good life from an earthly standpoint, for God is watching and in His providential goodness we do reap what we sow.

Peter, in his customary blunt but heartening way, tells it like it is to be. We are called upon to bless, for that is what we are here for. And we can bring much blessing and good to a person’s inner being with heartfelt words and references to scripture.

In verse 12 we are reminded the Lord is watching our conduct, delighting in righteousness and in hearing our prayers but turning His face against them that do evil, believers or not. We are to be found doing good, seeking peace, eschewing evil. (This was Job’s reputation and it should be ours.) That means nothing in our manner or walk hindering our prayers, certainly nothing in our walk that would turn the Lord’s face to be against us. It is indeed possible for believers to sin and do evil, but it is impossible that God will let us get away with it. God is faithful! While we are here on earth God will chasten those who He loves. But it is also impossible for anyone to undo the work of Christ on the cross causing us to lose our salvation. God is faithful! How wonderful then that His eyes are over the righteous and His ears open to their prayers. We are righteous before God because we have been born again. But will we sin and then seek answers to prayers without confessing and forsaking the sin? He turns from answering our requests while He deals with convicting us about the sin and restoring us to Himself.

If we read Psalm 34 we will discover that Peter has been referring to this Psalm more than once in this epistle. Note the verses adjacent to the scriptures cited in

Peter’s epistle:

Psalm 34

A Psalm of David, when he changed his behaviour before Abimelech; who drove him away, and he departed.

*1 I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. 2 My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. 3 O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together. 4 I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. 5 They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed. 6 This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. 7 The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. 8 **O taste and see that the LORD is good: [1Peter 2:3]** blessed is the man that trusteth in him. 9 O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him. 10 The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but **they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.** 11 ¶ **Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD.** 12 **What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good? [1Peter 3:10-12]** 13 Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.[Peter 2:22] 14 **Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.** 15 **The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.** 16 **The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.** 17 **The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles [1Peter 3:12-16].** 18 **The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.** 19 **Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.** 20 **He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.** 21 **Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.** 22 **The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.***

David was a man after God’s own heart, Acts 13:22. Yet David wrote Psalm 34 upon finding himself in a very precarious position resulting from his failing in faith and doing a foolishly dangerous thing. He sought refuge from Saul in the courts of Abimelech, King of the Philistines. Peter too had experienced failure when he denied the Lord three times. But here he encourages us by quoting from the psalm commemorating David’s experience, a telling reminder for us who may feel there is no way out of a predicament but compromise or denial of Christ. And we who have failed have a God that will retrieve us, 1John1:8-10. Praise be to the Lord.

By Ron Canner, January 12, 2005