

He That Will Love Life

I Peter 3:8-13

Theme: Life, Christian

Aim: To show that there are reasons for a Christian to love life.

1. These are the times that try men's souls is a line made famous because it seems to always apply.

2. Many think today is a trying, bad time.

2. Others are upbeat, thankful to be alive and enjoying life.

3. How? Why? - 1 Peter 3:8-13

I. Before examining Peter's needed advice, let us notice those to whom he was writing so we can appreciate the impact of his words.

A. The people he was writing to:

1. Were strangers in foreign lands, 1 Peter 1:1-2.

a. Away from homes, loved ones.

b. How relevant to our mobile, changing society.

2. They had been estranged from God, 1 Peter 1:14-25, 2:9-12.

a. They had known the life of sin, away from God.

b. They had known the bondage of sin.

c. Again, how relevant.

3. They were facing persecution, prejudice, 1 Peter 2:18-20, 4:12-16.

a. Because they were evil? Quite the contrary, 1 Peter 2: 12

b. They were misunderstood.

c. Again, how relevant.

4. They were facing moral pressure to conform from without, 1 Peter 4:1-5.

a. Those pressures themselves destroy content, make us wonder about self.

b. Again how relevant to today.

B. But look at the one who originally penned the words.

1. Psalm 34:11-16

2. Written by David as he fled from Saul and Ahimelech, 1 Samuel 21.

3. He was hiding in a strange land- feigning madness to escape detection.

3. It seems to me that plus the circumstances of 1 Peter tell me not to dismiss the advice as too simplistic, uninformed or impractical.

II. A look at how to "love life and see good days."

A. Refrain from evil speech.

1. There was a story in the news recently about a fellow who had told a lie about being a hero in WW II so often he had begun to believe it himself.

2. What we say, the *way* we talk, the things we talk about can contribute to happiness or discontent. Especially so in the way we talk to ourselves.

3. Ephesians 4:29, Philippians 2:14

4. Talk about pleasant, good, pure and sacred things and life will be better.

B. Turn from evil and do good.

1. A lady wrote to Ann Landers lamenting the damage to her life caused by herpes. But how did she get it? By sleeping with someone not her husband.

2. How much pain, discontent and unhappiness is brought into lives by sin?

3. Avoiding sin and those that sin can help us to love life, and see good days.

C. Seek peace and pursue it.

1. Is he speaking of absence of fighting? - perhaps so.
2. But there is more.
 - a. Matthew 5:9.
 - b. John 14:25-27.
 - c. Philippians 4:4-0.
3. That peace comes from being right with God!

D. There is communion, fellowship with God.

1. Nothing can fill our lives more than that closeness to God.
2. Such contentment can never be taken away!
 - a. Romans 8:31-39.
 - b. Hebrews 13:5-6.
3. Again comes from being right with God.

Conclusion:

1. Do you love life and see good days?
2. You can if you follow Peter's admonition!

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