

## **I Peter: Lesson #82 – So That in All Things God May Be Glorified**

### **Notes for Parents to Study With Their Children**

### **For Sunday, Mar. 15<sup>th</sup>**

Read I Pet. 4:1-11; 5:1-9 (a simplified explanation of the text will be supplied at the end of these notes).

**Memory Verse:** I Pet. 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

#### **Spend Your Time Living for God**

- How do you spend your time? Are you spending it the way God wants you to? Peter said that these Christians he was writing to, used to spend their time wanting to do sinful things. They would get drunk on wine, go to parties where people got drunk and acted wild, and worshipped idols. The world that they were part of was flooded with immorality.
- But then they heard about Jesus and became His followers. When we become Christians it is time to quit giving our lives to sin. Peter said they had already wasted enough of their lives in living for sin. Now they should live the rest of their time for God.
- Once these people became Christians and quit living sinfully, then all the people they used to go out with and do sinful things with thought they were strange. They started talking bad about Christians because they wouldn't go do wicked things anymore. We know that God will judge people for their sinful ways. There are people like that even today, and we hope they will quit disobeying God and become Christians, before it's too late.
- But as for us, it is time to have good judgment about everything we do. We need to not be confused about what we are to do for God. We need to be in control of our lives. We need to pray. We need to keep loving our fellow Christians.

#### **Served With the Gifts God Has Given You**

- God blesses us with various talents and chances to do things for others. We should always use what God has blessed us with to serve Him and serve our fellow Christians.
- If you can speak, we need to tell them about what God has spoken in His Word. If you can serve, we need to use the strength God has given you to help others.
- Let's remember something else: When Peter says, “If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God”, that means we need to teach what God has spoken in His Word. We don't need to teach man's ideas.

#### **Peter Speaks to the Elders**

- Peter writes to the elders of congregations his letter is going to. He uses all three words that describe what the leaders of the church are:
  - Elders -- they are called that because they have been Christians a long time and are not young men.
  - Shepherds – Because they lead the church like shepherds lead a flock of sheep.

- Overseers – Because they look out over the church and watch out for its welfare.
- Back then some people who were in charge of other people would be called “lords”. They would force the people under them to work. They were harsh in their ways and controlled all that people did. Peter said that was not how elders of the church would lead. Instead, elders would be good examples worthy of following and the congregation would voluntarily follow them. Members of the church must put themselves under their authority.
- An elder, a shepherd of the church, knows that he must answer to Jesus Christ. Peter calls Jesus the Chief Shepherd. One day the Chief Shepherd is coming back and will see how well all the other shepherds have overseen His church. If they have done well He will reward them.

### **Be Humble Before God**

- Do you know what it means to be humble? Some people in life put themselves up high. They think they are more important than other people and don’t need to listen to anyone else. That is called being too proud. Some people are so filled with pride that they won’t even listen to God.
- Humility is not putting yourself up high, but bringing your heart down low. It is lowering yourself so that you don’t think you are better than other people. But even more important, it is lowering yourself so that you believe that God is much more important than you are. His ways are more important than your ways.
- If we will put ourselves under God’s authority, in time He will lift us up to be more than we are right now.

### **God Cares About Your Problems**

- Every one has problems in life. Even kids can have problems. People may be mean to us. Homework may be hard. We might get sick. And when we grow up there will probably be even more problems to face.
- God wants us to do our best to deal with our problems, but He says He is willing to help. He wants you to pray and throw your problems to Him. Let Him help you deal with them. That way we don’t have to feel so bad and worry about everything.

### **Beware of the Lion**

- What if you were about to go out to play in your yard, but on TV they that a lion had escaped from the zoo and he was very hungry and looking for something or someone to eat? Now what if they said that lion was near where you live?
- Your parents probably wouldn’t let you go outside, but if you did go out, you and everyone else would need to be watching carefully to make sure that the lion wasn’t coming after you to eat you.
- Peter says that the Devil is like a roaring lion looking for someone to swallow up. We must stay alert and watch out for him. He wants to do us harm, but we have to stand up against him by staying faithful to God. God can protect us from Him, like He protected Daniel from the real lions.

## **Simplified Explanation of the Text**

### **Spending Our Time Living for God**

4:1 Since it is true that Christ had to suffer for us in the flesh, then prepare your mind for the same thing. When Christ suffered He was putting a stop to sin. In a similar way, as you suffer for Him, make sure that you stop sinning.

2 Spend the rest of your time, living for the will of God, not for the sinful things people desire.

3 For we have spent enough of our time doing the kind of things Gentiles want to do, going from one sinful thing to another. We've traveled the road of shamelessly engaging in sin with no restraint, in improper desires, overflowing with wine, running around acting wild with those who drink, participating in drinking parties, and practicing unlawful idolatry.

4 The wasted lives of the Gentiles have become a flood of immorality. But they think you are strange because you no longer run together with them into that flood, so they talk bad about you.

5 But they will have to give an account to God who is prepared to judge both those who are alive and those who have died.

6 This is the reason that the gospel was also preached. Our brethren who are dead may have been judged by people in the flesh, but their spirits are alive through God.

7 The goal of all that God intended for us is nearly complete. The time has come for us to have good, sound judgment and to be clear headed, in control for prayer.

8 But above all, reach out strenuously to love each other, because love will hide a multitude of sins.

9 Show hospitality to each other without complaining about it.

### **Serve Each Other**

10 Just as each received a gift, so then each should use it to serve one another. Let's be good managers of the different gifts God has given to us.

11 If any can speak, let him serve others by speaking what God has spoken. If any serve, then serve from the strength God gives you, so that God will be glorified in everything through Jesus Christ. To Him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen.

### **Peter Speaks to the Elders**

5:1-2 To the elders among you, I am your fellow-elder. I am a witness to the suffering of Christ and will share in the glory that will be revealed. I admonish you to shepherd the flock; overseeing it not because you've been forced to, but because you've chosen to. It never should be done out of some indecent desire to get money.

3 Nor should you oversee the flock like you are lords that dominate and control those who have been allotted to you. Instead you should lead by becoming examples to them.

4 Then when the Chief Shepherd appears you will be given a victory crown of glory that will not wither.

5 Likewise, you younger put yourselves under the authority of the elder.

### **Humble Yourselves Under God**

And everyone submit to one another, clothing yourselves in humility, for God is against those who think too highly of themselves, but He gives grace to those who lower themselves in humility.

6 So humble yourselves under God's powerful hand so that in time He can lift you up.

7 If you are being pulled apart by anxiety, cast it upon the Lord for He is concerned about you.

### **Wake Up and Be Alert**

8 Be clear-headed. Wake up and be alert. You have an enemy working against you. The Devil walks around like a roaring lion looking for someone who he can swallow up.

9 Continue to stand against the devil staying unmovable in your faith.