

FULL ^{OF} HOPE, FAR ^{FROM} HOME

Study in 1 Peter

Sermon Title: *“The Best of Life in the Worst of Times”*

Scripture: 1 Peter 3:8-12

Pastor for Preaching & Worship, Chris Fritz / Sunday, June 19, 2022

INTRODUCTION

The Big Point: By looking to Jesus, you can experience the best of life even in the worst of times!

I. WHERE TRUE BLESSING AND ABUNDANT LIFE ARE FOUND

verse 8: *“Finally, all of you...”*

1) These words introduce Peter’s closing comments TO THIS SECTION of his letter.

verse 8: *“Finally, all of you, HAVE unity of mind...”*

2) “Unity of mind” speaks to “harmony” and to shared goals within the Body of Christ.

Romans 12:16; Romans 15:5-7 -

verse 8: *“Finally, all of you, HAVE unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart...”*

3) “Sympathy”, “brotherly love”, and a “tender heart” describe not only OUTWARD compassion and kindness but INWARD patience, understanding, and pro-longed, loving endurance.

Romans 12:15; Hebrews 4:15-16; 1 Corinthians 12:26 -

verse 8: ***“Finally, all of you, HAVE unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.”***

4) There’s really no place for rude arrogance or for a proud, condescending attitude amongst fellow travelers and fellow sinners.

Philippians 2:5-11 -

verse 9: ***“DO NOT repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, BLESS, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.”***

5) Casting aside revenge, we are called/commissioned by God to seek the GOOD of our enemies!

Luke 6:27-28; 1 Thessalonians 5:15; 1 Peter 2:23; John 10:10; John 17:13 -

verses 10-12: ***“For ‘Whoever desires to LOVE LIFE and SEE GOOD DAYS, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. For the EYES OF THE LORD are on the righteous, and HIS EARS are open to their prayer. But the FACE OF THE LORD is against those who do evil.’” (1 Peter 3:10-12 quoting Psalm 34:12-16a)***

6) Knowing the goodness of God... knowing the power, the justice, and the sovereignty of God... looking to Jesus (our Savior, Lord, and sympathetic High Priest)... we can experience the BEST of life even in the WORST of times!

Psalm 34:1-3; Psalm 34:22 -

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. What does the word “finally” (at the beginning of verse 8) mean?
2. What does it mean for believers to have “unity of mind”? Does it mean no differences exist?
3. Since we’re all sinners-saved-by-grace, exiles, and weary travelers, why is having sympathy, brotherly love, and a tender heart so important?
4. How do we “bless” those who hate us and/or do us harm? What kinds of things should we do?
5. Why does Peter quote from Psalm 34? How does Psalm 34 reflect the truth of Peter’s words?