

## “FOR HE THAT WILL LOVE LIFE”

### INTRODUCTION

My wife Jewel and I recently took an anniversary trip to west Texas. As we were near Seymour, Texas we saw an older gentleman pushing a cart of some kind by the side of the road. As we returned 2 days later, we saw him again, but just a few miles from where he was earlier. He had a sign on his cart which carried his belongings, which read **“LOVE LIFE.”** We were about 3 miles from Seymour, so we stopped at a convenience store, and bought some food and drink, and decided to return and visit with the man and help him out a little. His name was STEVE FUGATE. He gave us his calling card, and on the back it read “LOVE LIFE.” He explained that he was from Florida and originally from Kentucky, but has been walking across America for the past few years, after having lost a son to suicide, and a daughter to cancer, and wanted to get the most out of life. He stated he has been to all 49 states on this continent, and has completely walked across America 4 times, and simply wants to spread the word to “LOVE LIFE” to as many people as he can. I immediately remembered that those words come from 1 Pet. 3:10 in the New Testament.

The context and background of the statement is in verses 8 and 9, where Peter enjoined upon his readers to do certain things in view of their calling to inherit a blessing. (Read these verses). Then, verse 10 begins with the word “For” (from the Greek word *gar*, meaning that what he had just wrote was about to be explained in the next verse, which explains **how** these admonitions will lead to a “good life.” In verses 10 and 11, he gives a 3-fold formula **for** the “good life”, with each part of the formula beginning with the word “let”. Let’s read the verses, and then examine the formula, and examine each part carefully.

### DISCUSSION

#### I. 1<sup>st</sup>, Peter says “LET” one control his tongue.

- A. This first part of the formula actually begins in the “heart”, as one **“wills”** or desires to “love life” and “see good days.”
1. Not everyone actually “loves” life, for they want to die, and many commit suicide.
    - a. One who really “loves life” will live with an awareness that it is very brief at the most, and live with that in view. Job 14:1-2; Jas. 4:14
    - b. One will also live life in preparation for the next life—in eternity. John 12:25; Heb. 9:27; Amos 4:12c; Rev. 14:13
  2. Then, one who loves life **will indeed** “see good days.”
    - a. A day is really a “good day” ONLY when lived in favor with the Lord. Lk. 2:52
    - b. Each day should be spent “wisely”, and never to the fulfilling of the sinful desires of the flesh. Cf Psa. 118:24
- B. Two things are then involved in this initial action—the “tongue” and the “lips.”
1. We are to refrain (or hold back) the tongue from speaking “evil” of others. v. 9; Jas. 3 :5-6; 4:11
  2. We are to keep our lips from speaking guile, or “deceit.” v. 10; 1 Pet. 1:21-23

#### II. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Peter says “LET” one have the right attitude toward good and evil.

- A. We are to “eschew” (KJV) or “turn away from”EVIL.”
1. This is *negative* action, as we avoid doing that which is NOT godly, but is of the devil. 1 John 3:8; 1 Thes. 5:22
  2. Then, *positively*, we are to “do good.” v. 11; Rom. 12:21; Gal. 6:10
- B. Christ is an example of the right attitude toward good and evil. Heb. 1:8-9; Rev. 2:4

### III. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Peter says “LET” one seek peace and ensue it.

- A. One can have **no** peace unless he “seeks” it, as he would a hidden treasure, and then to “ensue” it, or pursue it, as seen in the NKJV.
  - 1. The word “peace” is found in every book of the New Testament except 1 John.
  - 2. It simply means to “have a harmonious relationship.”
- B. There are different areas of “peace”, to seek and pursue.
  - 1. First and foremost, one needs to be at “peace” with GOD, in being reconciled to Him by being in Christ. Acts 10:36; Eph.1:13-14; Rom. 5:1
  - 2. Second and importantly is one needs to be at “peace” with HIMSELF, with the enjoyment of salvation and contentment in following the scripture.
  - 3. Third, one needs to live in peace with others in the church. 1 Thes. 5:13
  - 4. Fourth, we are to be at peace with our fellow man in general. Rom. 12:18-21; Heb. 12:14

#### CONCLUSION

- I. Peter declares that GOD is aware of our doing the things that are involved in our loving life and seeing good days. 1 Pet. 3:12
- II. IF God’s eyes are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers, WHO shall harm them?
  - A. Peter does not mean that no one will ever make an effort to hurt devoted Christians.
    - 1. He knew the temper of both Jews and heathen toward believers in Christ.
    - 2. He also knew of Jesus’ prophecies that the righteous will have enemies.
  - B. But, if GOD is **FOR** the righteous, and **AGAINST** the evil doer, **none can do real and everlasting harm to the righteous.** Matt. 10:28; Rom. 8:31; 1 Pet. 3:9
- III. Are you ready for that inheritance?

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