

Lunch Time Bible Study  
**God's Holy Nation**  
A Study of 1&2 Peter: "Living for the Will of God"  
1 Peter 4:1-11

October 17, 2017

*For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does. (1 Peter 4:6)*

**I. Outlook Determines Outcomes**

- a. If we are expecting something/someone, don't we prepare for it/them? (trip, delivery, child, job)
- b. Now that we are saved our lives should be filled with new expectations and new preparations.
- c. If we live under the old expectations, dictated by the old life, we will not be transformed.
- d. *The rest of the time.* (v.2) Our goal in the new life in Christ is to enjoy the will of God.
- e. The will of God for your life is freedom, righteousness and living in Holy Spirit.
- f. The will of Gentiles means "the will of the unsaved world." Examine verse 3.

**II. Grace Should Lead to Gracefulness**

- a. Sinners and saints have different expectations for their lives and this often times causes conflict.
- b. We will encourage them to change their ways. They will say, "Leave me alone, you live your life and I will live mine" "Who are you to judge me?" "You're not perfect" "I'm not ready"
- c. Instead of arguing with them, pray for them, knowing that the final judgement is with God.
- d. As long as there is a breath in their bodies and God's grace is in the earth, along with His witnesses every sinner has a chance to receive the gift of salvation.

**III. The Saint's Expectant Attitude**

- a. Christians in the early church expected Jesus to return in their lifetime. (Rom 13:12)
- b. The fact that He did not return does not invalidate His promise. (2 Peter 3; Rev. 2:18).
- c. One thing *is* for sure, we shall see the Lord one day and stand before Him. This should inform how we live and shape our attitudes.
- d. *Sober minded* means to "keep your mind steady and clear." The attitude of expectancy must not turn into lazy dreamy spirituality or zealous fanaticism. Have the right Christian attitude. (vv.7-11)
- e. Love is the critical trait of a Christian, especially in times of testing and persecution.
- f. We cannot hide our sins, but we should try to *cover* (not cover up) another's sins. (no gossip zone)
  1. Love is at the root of confession, forgiveness, reconciliation and restoration.
- g. God expects us to serve and we should expect to be called on to serve. Laziness is not a virtue.
- h. Serve where you are, when needed, with what you have, and because of who you are. God has given each of us spiritual gifts to serve. *Public servants apply within. (serving the Word or tables)*
- i. *Oracles* refers to the range of speaking gifts (glossolalia, prophecy, teaching, evangelism or preaching). Peter is not referring to causal talk among Christians.
- j. If we speak the Word of God, we must not compromise it. The whole counsel must be given. If we teach, we should teach truth with the utmost compassion and humility. "*Feed my lambs*"

**IV. Thoughts and Considerations for Action**

- a. Studying prophecies concerning the return of Christ has its place in biblical teaching, but Peter's emphasis is on "readiness for today." Be faithful today in whatever work God has given you.
- b. The only attitude you can truly adjust and change is your own, and only if *you* are willing to do so.
- c. Your spiritual readiness, *Christian expectation attitude* and authentic witness can be the catalysts for the unsaved.
- d. What will you do with "the rest of the time?" A dedicated Christian builds their life on truth, humility, holiness, service and the desire to glorify God.

*Keep my steps according to Your promise, and let not iniquity have dominion over me. (Psalm 119:133)*