

“Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries”

First Peter Bible Study — I Peter 3:15-19 Lesson #12

****INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the entire section of Scripture in First Peter before starting to look up the other Scripture verses and filling in the blanks. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding as you read God’s word.

15-16 But **SANCTIFY the LORD GOD in your HEARTS**, and **always be READY to give a DEFENSE to everyone who ASKS you a REASON for the HOPE that is in you**, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that **when they DEFAME you as EVIL-DOERS**, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

• **Isaiah 8:13** “The _____ of hosts, Him you shall _____; Let Him be your fear, and let Him be your dread.”

• **Ephesians 3:17-19** “That _____ may dwell in your _____ through _____, that you, being rooted and grounded in _____, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height — to know the _____ of _____ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

Definition: “SANCTIFY the LORD GOD in your HEARTS” – To “sanctify” or to “hallow” means to make something holy. **GOD is ALREADY HOLY**, whether we “make Him holy” in our hearts or not, but the idea here is that **we put Him FIRST place in our HEARTS and lives**. In Psalm 37, it is called “delighting yourself in the Lord”, which means to make Him your whole reason for joy and happiness. In Revelation 2:4, Jesus says He has “something against” a group of Believers, **because they have “left their first love”, meaning God**. They were a busy church, doing many things for God, but they had gotten so caught up in these THINGS, that they actually **NEGLECTED the One who was supposed to be their whole reason for living - God Himself**.

• **Matthew 6:33** “But seek _____ the kingdom of _____ and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

• **Psalm 37:4-5** “_____ yourself also in the _____, and He shall _____ you the _____ of your _____. Commit your way to the _____; _____ also in Him, and He shall _____ it to pass (He will accomplish it).”

• **Matthew 22:36-38** “Teacher, which is the great _____ in the _____?” Jesus said to him, ‘You shall _____ the _____ your _____ with _____ your _____, with _____ your _____, and with _____ your _____. This is the _____ and great commandment.”

• **Revelation 2:4** “Nevertheless I have this _____ you, that you have _____ your _____.”

Definition: “Be READY to give a DEFENSE to everyone who ASKS you a REASON for the HOPE that is in you” – The “hope that is in you” is your **salvation and assurance of eternal life in Jesus Christ**. In witnessing for Christ, and **especially when people ASK you about your faith**, there are times when you can give your personal testimony, but we can’t emphasize enough the importance of using God’s word rather than your own opinions, or any other source. Don’t say things like, “This is what WE believe...” Instead, say, **“This is what the Bible says...”** and then their argument will be with the word of God, not with YOUR opinion. If you don’t know the answer from the Bible right then, tell your friend you will look it up and give them the answer later. Call a pastor or other strong Christian for help in finding the answer to questions you cannot answer. God’s word is alive and powerful (Hebrews 4:12) and is our sword. If we try to talk and argue using OUR words alone, it is like having a weapon and never using it (keeping our sword in its sheath). As for our attitude when witnessing and giving an answer to those who have asked us, **it must be “with meekness and fear”**, which means with a humble attitude

and with reverence and respect.

• **Hebrews 4:12** “For the _____ of _____ is living and _____, and sharper than any two-edged _____, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

• **Romans 10:17** “So then _____ comes by _____, and hearing by the _____ of _____.”

• **Colossians 4:6** “Let your _____ always be with _____, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to _____ each one.”

Definition: “When they DEFAME you as EVIL-DOERS” – There will always be people who hate Christians and try to say evil things about us. **Sometimes it is because they are living sinful lives, and they don’t like to see anyone living a holy, God-fearing life, because it brings them under conviction.** Just don’t give them any “ammunition” by being a wishy-washy so-called Christian and hypocrite. That way, they will have to “eat their own words” when standing before God, as they will then realize you were a true Christian.

• **Matthew 5:10-12** “_____ are those who are _____ for righteousness _____, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed (happy) are you when they _____ and _____ you, and _____ all kinds of _____ against you falsely for My _____. _____ and be exceedingly _____, for great is your _____ in heaven, for so they _____ the prophets who were before you.”

• **I Peter 2:11-12** “Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, _____ from _____ which _____ against the _____, having your _____ honorable among the Gentiles that when they _____ you as _____, they may, by your _____ which they _____, _____ God in the day of visitation.”

17 **For it is better, if it is the WILL of GOD, to SUFFER for doing GOOD** than for doing evil.

• **I Peter 2:20** “For what _____ is it if, when you are _____ for your _____, you take it _____? But when you do _____ and _____ for it, if you take it _____, this is commendable before God.”

Definition: “If it is the WILL of GOD, to SUFFER for doing GOOD” – As is mentioned above, we should live our lives as dedicated Christians, full of the Holy Spirit, and not giving the enemy any reason to speak badly about us. If we suffer persecution anyway, in spite of our good conduct, God will bless us and help us to go through it. **In other words, if we have to suffer for Christ’s sake, let it be for the name of Jesus Christ only, and not because we have done something wrong.**

• **Romans 8:18** “For I consider that the _____ of this present time are not worthy to be _____ with the _____ which shall be _____ in us.”

• **II Corinthians 4:17** “For our light _____ (suffering), which is but for a _____, is working for us a far more exceeding and _____ weight of _____.”

• **Philippians 1:29** “For to _____ it has been _____ on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to _____ for His sake.”

• **James 1:2-4 & 12** “My brethren, count it all _____ when you fall into various _____, knowing that the _____ of your faith produces _____. But let _____ have its perfect work, that you may be _____ and _____, lacking nothing.” (Verse 12) “Blessed is the man

who endures _____ (TESTING, SUFFERING); for when he has been proved, he will receive the _____ of life (reward in heaven) which the Lord has promised to those who _____ Him.”

• **John 16:33** “These things I have spoken to you, that in _____ you may have _____. In the world you will have _____ (suffering); but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

• **Philippians 3:10** “That I may _____ and the power of His _____, and the fellowship of His _____, being conformed to His death.”

Definition: “GLORY which shall be REVEALED in us” — When the whole church of Jesus Christ is gathered in heaven, we will receive our rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ, we will partake of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, and we will be REVEALED to all of CREATION as being the high point and CULMINATION of God’s grace.

• **I Peter 4:13 & 19** “But _____ to the extent that you partake (share) of Christ’s _____, that when His _____ is _____, you may also be glad with exceeding _____.” (Verse 19) “Therefore, let those who _____ according to the _____ of _____ commit their _____ to Him in doing good, as to a faithful _____.”

18-19 For **Christ also SUFFERED once for SINS, the JUST for the UNJUST**, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also **He went and preached to the spirits in prison**

• **Romans 5:8** “But God demonstrates His own _____ toward us, in that while _____ were still _____, Christ _____ for _____.”

• **II Corinthians 5:14-15** “For the love of _____ constrains us, because we judge thus: that if One _____ for _____, then all died; and He _____ for _____, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who _____ for _____ and rose again.”

• **Isaiah 53:8** “He was taken from prison and from judgment, and who will declare His generation? For He was cut off (killed) from the land of the _____; for the transgressions of My _____ He was stricken.”

Definition: “Christ also SUFFERED once for SINS, the JUST for the UNJUST” – Jesus is the “Lamb who was slain” and the “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”. In the Old Testament, a little innocent animal (usually a lamb) was slain (killed) as a sacrifice for the sins of the people, but now under the New Covenant (New Testament), **our sins are completely TAKEN AWAY (remitted, BORN AWAY) and WASHED AWAY in the BLOOD of JESUS, which He shed upon the cross.** In the Old Testament (under the Old Covenant), their sins were only COVERED TEMPORARILY until **the Messiah, God’s Lamb, would come to SUFFER and DIE and PAY THE PENALTY** for the sins of the world. Every year, they would have the Day of Atonement to remind them that God’s Lamb was not yet come, and **continual sacrifices and sin offerings** during the year. (See Exodus 30:10, Leviticus 16:30). The literal meaning of the word **“atonement” is covering** (“kapporah” in Hebrew, as in Yom Kippur). Now, when we believe in Jesus, and accept His sacrifice on the cross, **our sins are NOT just covered**, they are **REMITTED and TAKEN AWAY COMPLETELY** (REMIT - to release from the guilt or penalty of). Also, the Old Testament sacrifices had to be carried out over and over again, but **Jesus had to SUFFER and DIE ONLY ONCE.** He is the perfectly sinless, righteous and JUST Son of God, and He died for us, the “UNJUST” (unrighteous sinners).

• **I Peter 2:24-25** “Who Himself _____ our _____ in His own _____ on the tree (cross), that we, having died to sins, might _____ for _____ —

by whose stripes (wounds) you were healed. For you were like sheep going _____, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

• **John 1:29** “The next day John saw _____ coming toward him, and he said, “Behold! The _____ of _____ who _____ the _____ of the world!”

• **John 3:5** “And you know that He was manifested to _____ our _____, and in Him there is no _____.”

• **Isaiah 53:5-6** “But He was _____ for _____ transgressions, He was bruised for _____ iniquities (sins); the chastisement (punishment, suffering) for _____ peace was upon _____, and _____ His _____ we are _____. All we like _____ have gone _____; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has _____ on _____ the iniquity (sin) of us _____.”

• **Luke 22:20** “Likewise He also took the cup after supper saying, ‘This cup is the new _____ in My _____, which is shed for you.’”

• **Matthew 26:28** “For this is My _____ of the new _____, which is shed for many for the _____ of _____.”

• **1 Corinthians 5:21** “For He made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be _____ for _____, that we might be made the _____ of _____ in Him.”

• **Hebrews 10:1 & 9-10** “For the _____, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can _____ with these same _____, which they offer year by year, make those who approach _____.” (Verses 9-10)
“Then He (Jesus) said, ‘Behold, I have come to _____ Your _____, O God.’ He takes away the first (covenant) that He may establish the second. By that _____ we have been sanctified through the _____ of the _____ of Jesus Christ _____ for all.”

Definition: “Being put to DEATH in the FLESH but made ALIVE by the SPIRIT” – Jesus suffered and died on the cross in His human, physical body (“the flesh”), but His spirit, His eternal existence as the Son of God, never died. **His physical BODY was resurrected on the third day by the POWER of the HOLY SPIRIT.**

• **Romans 8:11** “But if the _____ of _____ who _____ Jesus from the _____ dwells in you, _____ who _____ from the _____ will also give life to your mortal bodies through His _____ who dwells in you.”

Definition: “He went and PREACHED to the SPIRITS in PRISON” – Don’t get all confused and think that Jesus is here giving people a chance to be saved after death. These “spirits in prison” who have been around since the time of Noah, are **demon spirits, and NOT the spirits of human beings. Jesus went into the “Abyss” where these demons are bound in chains, awaiting the final judgment, to DECLARE and SHOW that He was triumphant over them and all of Satan’s hordes (NOT to preach about salvation).** What did these demons do that was so bad that God has them chained up in the Abyss? According to Genesis 6:1-4, they were probably fallen angels (demons) that had sexual relations with human women, creating a half-breed race of men who were exceedingly evil. These demons and the half-demon-half-men they created were responsible for hardening the hearts of all humanity, so that no one believed Noah’s preaching for over a hundred years when he warned about the coming flood and destruction of the earth.

• **Genesis 6:1-4** “Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and _____ were born to them, that the _____ of _____ (angels) saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took _____ for themselves, whomever they chose. Then the Lord said, ‘My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless, his days shall be one hundred and twenty years. The Nephilim (GIANTS) were on

the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the _____
of _____, and they bore _____ to them.”