

Refuge City Church — February 21, 2021
“Hope-Filled Life” (1 Peter 3:8-22)

Introduction/Illustration:

- In 2012, Marek, a 45 year old Polish man informed his girlfriend that he was leaving her for another woman. His girlfriend, Anna, is a dentist. Only days later Marek went to Anna for a regular exam. She gave him a powerful anesthetic and yanked out all of his teeth one by one. Anna got her revenge. Not sure what discipline she received for her indiscretion. Marek, however, lost all around. His new girlfriend left him because he is toothless.
- **TODAY:** A proper perspective on our active life of hope in an ungodly world, how to *respond* biblically to persecution, and our constant reminder of a submissive life well lived in Jesus Christ.
- The funnel of submission, honor, and respect continues on.
 - This is why Peter will begin this section with “Finally”.

Verses 8-12

- 8** Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. **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. **10** For “Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; **11** let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. **12** 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.”
- How do you typically respond to those you don’t agree with, or that contradict what you believe, either indirectly or directly to you?
 - The moment someone says something to you, albeit sarcastic, hurtful, etc... what’s your immediate mindset/inclination prior to response?
 - You probably respond in one of two ways:
 - Evil for good **[satanic/demonic way]**
 - Evil for evil, and good for good **[human/sinful way]**
 - We lack self control!
 - **2 Timothy 3:3**, “[people are]...heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, **without self-control**, brutal, not loving good,”
 - **VERSE 8:** Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.
 - So, how do we get to the point of living out our calling to “do good” **[vs. 11]** no matter what is done to us?
 - How do we live out our calling to return Good for evil? **[divine/God-ordained way; verse 9 = our calling]**
 - **2 Peter 1:5-7**, “For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with

steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.”

- It's something we must work at! It takes effort!
- Within the church, this is how we are to be towards one another.
 - **Proverbs 13:20-21**, “Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm. Disaster pursues sinners, but the righteous are rewarded with good.” [**1 Corinthians 15:33**, “...bad company corrupts good morals”]
 - We can encourage and hold each other accountable in these ways to exhibit these characteristics/qualities of life, in a genuine way.
 - **Romans 12:9-13**, “Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.”
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:15**, “See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.”
 - Consider the Beatitudes, the teachings of Jesus [**Matthew 5:3-11**]
 - Blessed are those who are poor in spirit
 - Blessed are those who mourn
 - Blessed are the humble
 - Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness
 - Blessed are those who show mercy
 - Blessed are the pure in heart
 - Blessed are those who work for peace
 - Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake
 - Blessed are you when others mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers.
- Remember who's writing this letter! Peter lived and learned his lesson.
 - What was his response at the arrest of Jesus? [**acted on emotion/cut off ear of Malchus**]
 - How did Peter respond when he got called out three times as a disciple of Jesus during Jesus' trial? [**denied Jesus 3x with increasing hostility!**]
 - **Luke 6:27-28**, “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.”
- **Verses 10-12: [Psalm 34:12-16]** Who wants to live a life you love?! Who wants to have good days?!
 - These are simple instructions to follow. Yet why do we have such a difficult time putting them in to practice?
 - A self-loathing attitude is something that comes attached to who we are. It's inborn. It's human nature to be selfish.
 - We are the ones who have to make a concerted effort to change our attitude towards ourselves and others.
 - Having an attitude of gratitude is a conscious choice we must make daily!

Verses 13-17

13 Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? **14** But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, **15** but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, **16** having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. **17** For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

- If you're actively living what God calls us to, who are we to fear?
 - **QUESTION:** What is a typical response when good is done to you?
 - **Illustration:** Starbucks 'pay it forward' [2014, 11 hour/457 car event]
- If, and when, persecution comes your way for how you are living your faith, God's promise will sustain you.
 - **1 Peter 1:3-5**, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."
 - If the glory of God and your eternal hope is your focus in all things, what or who is there to fear?
- It is this hope in which we must be prepared to speak.
 - If Jesus is not the reason you do good, then why do good?
 - Moralistic Therapeutic Deism [twisted form of "Christianity"/religion]
 - The existence of God, who created and watches over life.
 - Be good.
 - Goal of life = be happy and do what feels good.
 - God is not involved in life.
 - Good people will go to heaven.
 - This is **I**dolatry = the sovereignty of self.
- We don't do good because that's what we *should do*. We do good because that's who we are supposed to BE. [1 John 4:4, "...for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."]

Verses 18-22

18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, **19** in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, **20** because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. **21** Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, **22** who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

- Peter reminds us that the source of our hope, good, and confidence in this world was established at the cross.

- In Noah's day, God declared the heart of man was corrupt and violent.
- In time, He destroyed the earth and all who inhabited it, with the exception of Noah and his family.
- Noah was a righteous man, who found faith in God and the ark he was instructed to build, and so was saved by the water.
 - Noah didn't build the ark, and then the Lord counted him righteous.
 - Noah was found righteous before God, and then by faith and obedience built the ark and found freedom.
- So baptism does for us.
 - If we trust in God's promise of salvation through His Son Jesus, baptism by water outwardly shows our inner salvation.
 - As Noah was saved by passing on the flood waters, as the Israelites were saved by crossing the Red Sea, so we are saved through the process of baptism.
 - By faith, Noah and his family got on the ark.
 - By faith, Moses and the Israelites crossed the sea.
 - By faith, we step into the baptismal.
- **1 John 2:2**, "He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world."

Response/Prayer

1. What attitudes & actions do you need to cultivate when you encounter bad times?
 - *Season of Lent*: a great time to self-discipline and develop those habits.
2. If someone were to ask you for a reason for the hope that you have in the midst of adversity, what would you say? Are you confident in this hope?