

die for us, and was raised from the dead.

Do the right thing! In the days of Noah, many were disobedient and drowned in the water, but only those who came through the water (in the ark) were saved. So also, in our day we pass through the water, and are saved through the resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ, to whom everything has been given. So keep your conscience clean!

Do the right thing! Be of the same mind as your Savior and make His priorities your priorities. Since you have, through baptism, died with Him, you ought to be dead to sin, and living for your Lord. There are always some folks who will try to get you to sin with them by ridiculing your godly behavior, but remember that their judgment will most certainly come.

Do the right thing! Love one another, extend your helping hand to one another, and do for people what the Lord has provided you to do for them. Speak out for the Lord, and do it in the strength that He supplies. You will, by your words and actions, Glorify God.

Do the right thing! You may suffer in this life, and if you do, make sure it is in the Lord's service and not for some wrong you ought to avoid. There is no need to be ashamed if you suffer for our Savior, for you will be exonerated completely, in due time. Trust the Lord completely with your life.

Do the right thing! Those of you who lead the congregation must do so with a proper attitude. Avoid the conflicts of interest which make it even appear that your motives might not be right. Avoid the plague of pride. Do all that you do from a pure motive. Love those whom you serve through your leadership, and lead them by example.

Do the right thing! Those of you who do the work of the congregation must do so with a proper attitude. Avoid the conflicts of interest which make it even appear that your motives might not be right. Avoid the plague of pride. Do all that you do from a pure motive. Love those whom you serve through your work, and serve them by example.

Do the right thing! Do not try to exalt yourself; God will do it for you, in His own sweet time. Worrying doesn't help matters any, even if you are very good at worrying. Take all those problems to the Lord. Thoroughly resist all of the tempter's devices, as these testings are common to all Christians. The Lord Himself has called you for this purpose, and is working in you and through you toward His perfection.

Do the right thing!

“Stand Fast!”

The First Epistle of Peter

Lesson 10, for Sunday, December 30, 2001

I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it! 1 Peter 5:12b NAS

Outline of First Peter

Theme: Suffering in the life of the believer

Key verse: I Peter 4:1

- I. Comfort and reassurance in suffering (1:1 -1:25)**
 - A. Salutation (1:1,2).
 - B. Reassurance in the realized facts of Christ's gospel (1:3-12).
 - C. Reassurance in divinely bought holiness of life (1:13-25).
- II. The chastened response of practical holiness (2:1-3:22)**
 - A. The negative and positive bases of holiness (2:1-2:3).
 - B. The readers' participation in a holy community, the Church (2:4-2:10).
 - C. Unimpeachable living, the answer to persecution (2:11-3:13).
 - D. Victory in unjust suffering (3:14-3:22).
- III. The spiritual significance of suffering (4:1-4:19)**
 - A. Physical suffering a type of death to the flesh life (4:1-4:6).
 - B. The “crucified Life” characterized by divine love (4:7-4:11).
 - C. The fires of persecution seen as purifying (4:12-19).
- IV. Divine love as a guide in church life (5:1-5:11)**
 - A. Elders to rule in love (5:1-5:7).
 - B. The Devil to be resisted through divine grace (5:8-5:11).
- V. Closing salutations and benediction (5:12-5:14)**

The Argument

Do the right thing! You are “chosen aliens,” not because of any ethnic differences but because you are citizens not of this world but rather of that to come. Even though you may be persecuted, our Lord chose you himself, to make you holy.

Do the right thing! Your salvation is changeless, in spite of the current difficult circumstances. Not only are you saved by grace, fellow heirs with our Lord, but furthermore that inheritance is kept safe for you, unblemished by any worldly trials.

Do the right thing! Rejoice because your trials are not dissuading you from your faith. Rather, those trials were proving you to be faithful and praiseworthy in the eyes of our Lord. This faithfulness will most certainly be remembered.

Do the right thing! Do not miss the mark, but instead follow Jesus' example, and trust that your salvation is secure. Dedicate yourselves to Him, and behave as He would. Follow Him.

Do the right thing! Since your behavior is seen by the Judge of all, behave properly. Remember that your salvation was purchased by the blood of Jesus, the Judge's Son. God let it be known thousands of years ago that He would do this, and He did what He said He would do. He did it for you, so believe Him completely.

Do the right thing! Since you have been bought back from the slavery of sin, and since He has purified your hearts, love one another as he has loved you. The cost of your salvation was extremely high, and He paid it all. All present day glory will come to nothing in the end, but our God and His Word last forever.

Do the right thing! Shun evil behavior in any form. Follow our Lord and listen to Him. He has most certainly chosen you to work together with Him and for Him.

Do the right thing! Just as Jesus was chosen by God and yet rejected by men, you also are chosen by God and are being rejected by men. As His chosen ones, serve Him together and proclaim His salvation to all around you. You have been chosen and brought together for this very purpose.

Do the right thing! Shun earthly evil behavior. As you do the right thing, the pagans will see you, and although they hate you for doing right today, yet some will praise our God for the salvation which your behavior influenced them to accept also.

Do the right thing! The government was actually established by God for our good, and we are expected to live within the laws. Our Lord expects this of us, for we are to set an example for those who see us.

Do the right thing! Use your freedom in Christ for good, and not for evil. Serve the Lord in all that you do. Serve the Lord by honoring those who

deserve such honor. Serve the Lord by loving your fellow believers. Serve the Lord through doing what civil laws require of you.

Do the right thing! When you serve, serve those whom you serve with a whole heart. Do so both when it is a pleasure and when it is a real pain. Our Lord sees your behavior, and this service will not go unnoticed. Serving with a good attitude when things go well is easy, while keeping that good attitude when things go badly is difficult. He knows full well when you are going the extra mile.

Do the right thing! Be an example to those around you. Although Our Lord was sinless, yet He was tortured and murdered without complaint. He offered Himself up as the ultimate sin offering for us all, and yet trusted God throughout it all. Let Him be our example, as we are His people.

Do the right thing! Be respectful and loving toward your own marriage partner. Win your mate over with your loving behavior. Do not be two different persons, putting on an impressive show with no real character behind it.

Do the right thing! Be a consistent witness for our Lord. Do not live by the world's ways and then expect to have much of a Christian witness. Do not rely on showy extravagance to attract attention, as if this would somehow lead anyone to follow the Lord. Rather, follow the lead of the Holy Spirit in living your life in an ordered, Christian manner, one which will show the true attitude of the heart.

Do the right thing! Live with your mate in a most understanding manner. Treat your marriage partner as you ought, as one of the Lord's own chosen people. How can you effectively pray with someone whom you regard as less an heir of the promise than yourself?

Do the right thing! Let your witness be a positive one, both in your behavior toward each other, and in your relations with the unbelievers among whom you live. Treat others properly even if they treat you badly; to do otherwise is to live as the world does.

Do the right thing! Doing so will normally keep you out of trouble. But if you get in trouble for doing the right thing, the Lord takes notice of that too. Do what will leave you with a clean conscience, and do so for the Lord. When people ask you why you act that way, gently tell them of your Savior.

Do the right thing! Now you may indeed suffer for doing the right thing, but remember that Jesus suffered unjustly also. He was sinless, and yet took the weight of everyone else's sins on himself. He went so far as to