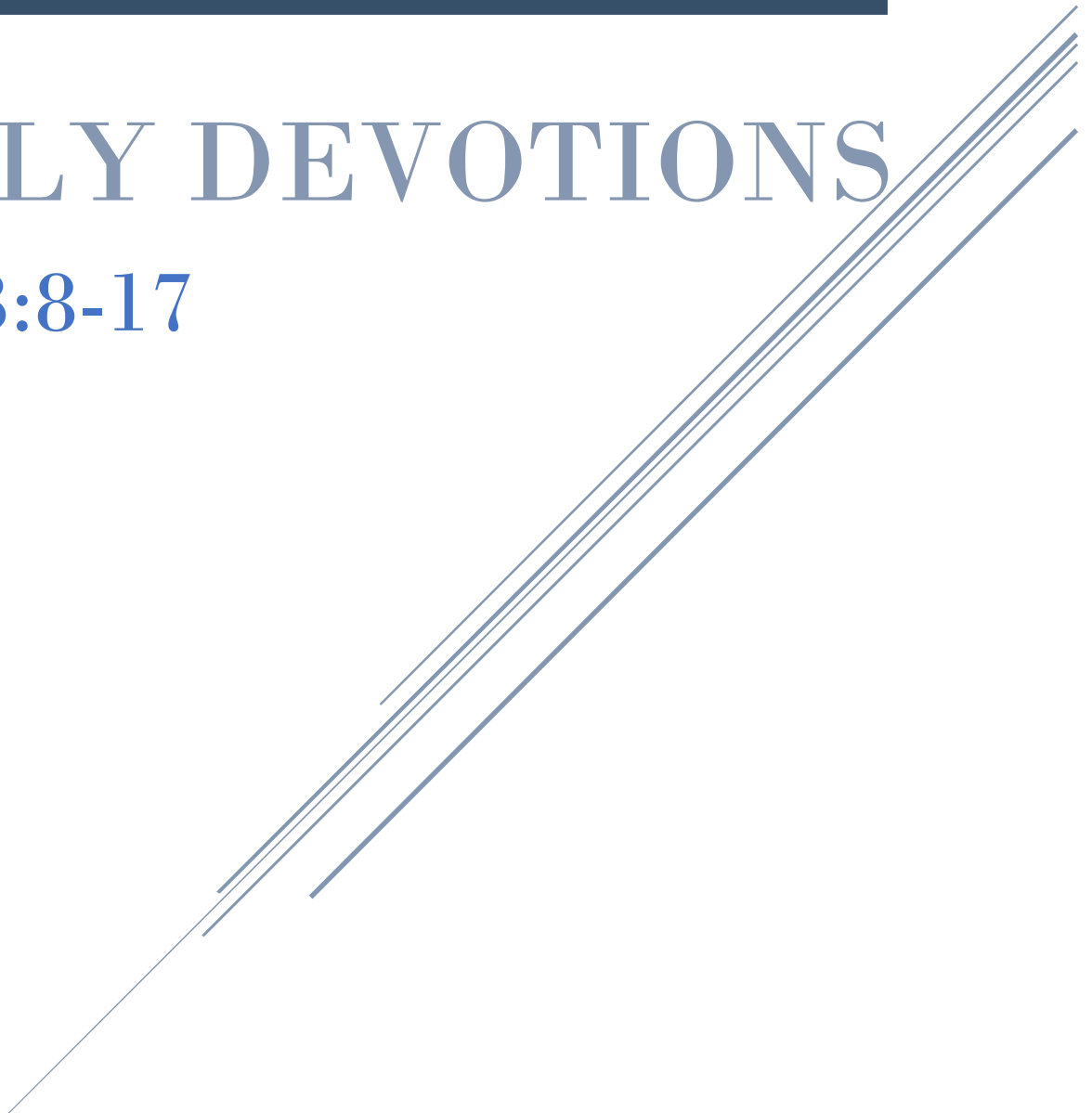




FAMILY DEVOTIONS

1 Peter 3:8-17



Family Devotion 1 Peter 3:8-17 – Preparation of Blessings

The previous section Peter's sole focus was on submission but now Peter now shifts his focus to preparation. The mission of Peter in writing his epistle is to get the readers ready for the "fiery trial" to come. Times of suffering and persecution were coming for the church and Peter wanted to ensure all believers would be ready. However, Peter didn't focus on the negative but approached persecution from the positive point of view. All believers are called to be a blessing and our continued ability to live graciously rest in our proper understanding of our calling.

Another theme that reoccurs through the epistles is that of love and our love toward others. Peter begins this section in **1 Peter 3:8** *"To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit."*

Questions

1. Paul says in **Romans 13:8-10** *the whole Law is summed up in love and that love does no wrong to a neighbor.*
 - a. During this time of social distancing and being in one place, do you find it harder or easier to be harmonious?
 - b. Do any of you have trouble showing these attributes to those around you?
2. Love in our lives is evidence of a united mind. Unity is cooperation in the midst of diversity. What are ways you can maintain unity in your relationships?
3. **1 Peter 3:9** says, *"not returning evil for evil or insult for insult but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing."*
 - a. What is your first reaction when reading this?
 - b. Peter says we don't return evil or insults but give a blessing instead. This is not just for those we like but those we don't get along with. Do you find this hard to do? If yes, why?

Peter then quotes **Psalms 34:11-16** in verses **10 thru 12**. In verse 10 Peter says, **"the one who desires life, to love and see good days, must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit."** To love is an act of the will and an attitude of faith. We have to see the best in every situation and control our tongues. Truth is for many of us, most of our issues come from wrong words spoken in the wrong spirit.

Questions

1. Do you find it hard to control your tongue?
2. What are ways you can keep your tongue from speaking hurtful words?

3. **V.11 says to seek peace and pursue it.** What are ways you can seek peace in your life as opposed to conflict?

In verses **13 thru 17** Peter turns to God's grace in suffering and introduces the important spiritual principle that the fear of the Lord conquers every other fear! When we are faced with crisis there is a temptation to give into our fears and make wrong decisions. We may get hurt but enemies and circumstances can't harm us! We only harm ourselves when we fail to trust in God.

Questions:

1. Have there ever been a time when you made an irrational decision because of fear?
2. In verse 15 what do you think it means to **"sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts"**?
3. Do you feel confident in giving a defense of your faith to someone who asks?

Living in harmony takes work and the work of the Holy Spirit within. We are living in and through difficult times where being harmonious can be challenging. We are also living in a time where people have real questions about God and are looking for real answers. Let's use our speech to edify one another and to testify the truth about Jesus. Pray on how you can live in harmony with those around you and pray that when the time comes you have boldness and understanding to share the gospel!