Resurrecting Hope: Thriving Hope
1 Peter 3:8-18
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1 Peter 3:8-18: [8] Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. [9] Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. [10] For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. [11] They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. [12] For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." [13] Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? [14] But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." [15] But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, [16] keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. [17] For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. [18] For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. (NIV)

Our Vision: Connect with Christ, Church and Community

1. _____ the need for living hope

_____characteristics: Finally, everyone (not just husbands and wives) should be of the same mind about these quality characteristics: be sympathetic, love each other like family, be tenderhearted, and courteous. 1 Peter 3:8 (JOT)

_____ blessings: That goes for all of you, no exceptions. No retaliation. No sharp-tongued sarcasm. Instead, bless—that's your job, to bless. You'll be a blessing and also get a blessing. 1 Peter 3:9 (MSG)

2. _____ a thriving hope

_____ the blessed life: The person who loves life and desires many good days must give running people down a rest, bridle evil and do good! Seek peace and stay on its trail! 1 Peter 3:9 (JOT)

_____ singular devotion: Even if you suffer for doing right, God will bless you! Don't give into fear or be overwhelmed with turmoil! Instead, make your heart a sacrificial altar for Jesus. 1 Peter 3:13-14 (JOT)

_____ witness: Through thick and thin, keep your hearts at attention, in adoration before Christ, your Master. Be ready to speak up and tell anyone who asks why you're living the way you are, and always with the utmost courtesy. 1 Peter 3:15 (MSG)

3. _____ to spiritual strength

_____the death grip: For Christ suffered on the cross once and for all, absolute goodness for the no good, in order to empower you to leave the ways of death and thrive with the power of Living Hope! 1 Peter 3:18 (JOT)

Spiritual Action Step:

Do you love life or simply endure it? Are you alive with hope or sinking in despair? Are you shining the light of Christ or lurking in shadows of sin? Jesus offers you an invitation***: "Come to me all who are laboring and overwhelmed and I will give your rest!"*** (Matthew 11:28, JOT) Accept this invitation. It is for your life. See how your life can be different by choosing to follow our humble Savior. Jesus suffered for all of our sins to enable us to find his peace. Humble yourself by asking for God's help. This week, read 1 Peter 3 and Psalm 34 to allow the Holy Spirit to lift you into God's powerful hope.

Translations: NIV: New International Version; JOT: Jon's Own Translation; MSG: The Message.