proclaim hope

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When life throws us curve balls, and we do not know what is happening, knowing that God is in control and has our future secure makes a difference. This should move us to proclaim this hope that we have. To proclaim our living hope, we must understand:

who we are
(1 Peter 2:4-8)

In 1 Peter 2:4-8, we are referred to as living stones while Jesus is described as the Living Cornerstone. A cornerstone is the first stone laid in building construction and serves as its sturdy foundation. Jesus is our foundation of our faith and salvation. As living stones, we are a royal priesthood. Before, people had to go to a priest to be interceded for, but as living stones we now have direct access to God and can also intercede for others!

1 Peter 2:6 tells us that whoever trusts in Jesus, the Cornerstone, will never be put to shame. He died on the cross for our sins out of His love, grace, and mercy (John 3:16). But for those who do not believe and do not want to align their lives to God's intended original design, He is a stumbling block. Those who do not believe in Him will always be disappointed.

why we are
(1 Peter 2:9-10)

1 Peter 2:9 tells us that we are God's chosen people, a holy nation and God's special possession. Once we were in darkness, but He has called us out into His wonderful light to declare His praises. We have a common ground with all Christ-followers around the world of all races and cultures. As one body, we can together proclaim Christ.

What are we to proclaim? We proclaim Christ's light and excellencies to those around us so others may come to know Him. We are made to worship Him and proclaim His goodness and lovingkindness for all the world to see. Are you proclaiming the hope that you have in Christ? Sin distracts and hinders us from coming into His light. The good news is that there is a way to get out of that darkness, and it is simply to go to God.

this week's memory verse

To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; 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.

1 PETER 3:8-9

how we live
(1 Peter 2:11-20)

We can proclaim God by the way we live: (1) through the power of the Holy Spirit, (2) when we abstain from fleshly lusts, and (3) when we replace these lusts with a passion and genuine love for the Lord. We are to behave with such excellence, especially among unbelievers and those who slander us, so that they would see and be won over by our good deeds and glorify God (1 Peter 2:12).

Another way to proclaim God with our life is to submit to authorities. For the Lord's sake, we are to submit even to those who are unreasonable, because by submitting we are doing what is right. However, if our authority wants us to commit a sinful act, we are to respectfully refuse to do so because we want to honor the Lord. If we suffer by doing what is good and right for God's sake, God promises that this finds favor with Him, and we can trust Him to take care of us.

what He did
(1 Peter 2:21-25)

1 Peter 2:24 says "by His wounds, you were healed." We used to be alive in sin and dead in righteousness, but Christ rescued us by dying in our place. Because of His finished work of redemption, we have a higher reason for saying "no" to sinful and distracting passions. Because of Jesus, we can say "yes" to the greatest passion of proclaiming Him to those around us.

discussion questions

Why is right thinking important when it comes to the Christian life?

What does it mean to be holy?

What do you need to do or not to do in order to live a life that is pleasing to God?

Why is it important to know that God is also our judge?

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