

1Peter 11-04-29a

This is Friday the 29th of April 2010 and we continue our study in first Peter chapter 3. We're going to be picking up in verse 15 we have been discussing the hope That should be in us We took a very detailed look at that hope and passages that pertain to it last time and we're going to pick up Right at the end of verse 15 and continue into 16 tonight and take a moment as is our regular practice to collect our thoughts focus our attention and Cultivate the ministry of God's Holy Spirit in our souls so that our time will be well spent and our Perspicacity will be at its peak shall we pray father what a blessing it is to lay aside the concerns and the occupations of the day and of the week and spend time together in fellowship with believers who understand the importance of The Truth of your word and the guidance and the power that it brings to our lives We thank you for this passage of scripture from the Apostle Peter And we ask your blessing on us as we study together that each one of us will Not only understand what he was saying under the ministry of your spirit But that we will find something practical something useful something applicable That will enable us to live our lives more closely conformed to the Lord Jesus more fully pleasing in your sight We pray that it will strengthen our fellowship that it will Enhance our love and our faith and that it will And further undergird and promote our hope and our expectation of The eternal future that you have promised to us through the Lord Jesus Christ. We pray these things in his name. Amen you'll remember that having given these examples of Submission which is sort of another aspect of humility Not not denigration not dishonor not devaluing But when slaves are submissive to masters, even if they are twisted when wives are submissive to their husbands regardless of how smart or how Worthy the husband is and when husbands assign honor to their wives Irrespective of any other circumstance that Peter doesn't say if they're a really good wife then treat them like fine China and assign them honor He says you Value them you honor them as the More precious more delicate vessel.

I don't think weaker is a good translation there at all that Greek derivative is talking about something that is in need of more careful treatment because of its value and All of this requires an objectivity that we're not really born with it's not native to us We are intrinsically inherently Self-centered and self-interested and self-promoting and one of the things that marks us as children of God one of the things that that is characteristic of people who are under the influence of God's Holy Spirit and operating in the power of God's Word is this unusual atypical Looking out for the interests of others Setting aside self-promotion self-defense I will get my way. I will prevail. I will get what is due me I read some really interesting articles this week researching a completely unrelated topic It was actually talking about marriage I was interested in divorce Statistics Dr. Crystal mentioned some back in the 80s, and I was looking to see what had happened in the interim and It's really fascinating there.

There was a really good book and sorry I can't remember the name of it, but I was you know how they have excerpts They have certain pages out of these books that come up on Google book results And I just happened to glance across a couple of pages written by a lady who was

analyzing The the status of modern marriage with all of the cultural hue and cry and the Same sex issue and one thing in another, but it was a really good Examination of how our culture has changed and one of the things that has been greatly to the detriment of marriage and looking at marriage as a Institution that is honored and ought to be entered into and so on is the rise of Individualism that used to be people entered into marriage realizing that it was an appropriate thing it was part of society It was part of culture. It was sort of expected. This is the kind of the standard model this is how you get on with your life after you leave youth and enter into the adult years you know this this is kind of the common thing and so there was a paradigm that people had seen all around them and felt like they wanted to enter into and beginning Fifty odd years ago that really began to shift and people began to be more interested in Self fulfillment I I am NOT looking to the the institution or to the culturally and societally Expected model I I want to feel Fulfilled and they began to look at personal relationships for fulfillment anyway It goes went into a long thing, but my whole point is there was an expectation there that That people felt wasn't being met and so there was a greater and greater search for personal fulfillment and this led to a higher priority on that than Preserving marriage and so on and all of these this is all secular studies and so on But they were talking about the fact that now where people Will enter into a relationship find it fulfilling for a time and then it ceases to be fulfilling and they will leave that relationship and go to another that We have more children being born in such relationships or as they used to say out of wedlock than ever before and the the problems have arisen and there's all kinds of therapies and all kinds of Attempts to fix this problem, but children are Increasingly coming are increasingly living in and coming from greater instability Because these relationships are forming and breaking up much more rapidly people at most Would maybe have one or two but but now there there's multiple and the number of you know significant other Relationships in any given person's life on average has greatly increased and it's just a phenomenon It's just an objective observation.

This is what has happened You could you could assign all kinds of causes or try to figure it out, but it's just a fact but because of this People are much more insular. They don't want to invest. It's sort of almost a self fulfilling type of thing because children Don't want to get too attached if they're they typically stay with the mother if a relationship You know dissolves and so if she then has other Men come into the life and they may or may not get married But they typically don't stay and don't last and then there's there's a series of these so children say I don't want to bond It's too painful.

I it's disruptive when that relationship then dissolves and this has become more and more Commonplace and so the end result of all of this without you know, rendering any kind of judgment But just observing is that people have said I really It's it's too painful to invest in personal relationships So I'm just going to float along and if I see something I want to do or someone I want to spend time with I'll do that for a little while and then I'll but I'm not going to get too invested in it because that it just hurts Too much these things breaking up is too painful and so the overall on average level of investment in this type of relationship is lesser and And people almost necessarily are trying to look out for number one and not Not be hurt not be traumatized

not be and so this level of instability has just greatly increased and if you look statistically back at you know marriages versus Divorces and one thing in another you can see this trend Going on for over a century In terms of its change. I say all of that to say this What Peter is talking about here is? Is true in any culture in any period of history that When we have a relationship with God we us personally us individually our sense of value our Ability to survive a trauma or a difficulty Doesn't rest in our level of satisfaction in our horizontal personal relationships like it does for people who don't have an active spiritual life You can see this as a driving factor in many different things people who are looking for fulfillment in their professional life or their personal life or wherever else if it starts to wane or starts to To diminish I've got to find another one. I need a different job.

I need a better job. I need a different person I need a better person. I need I'm going to switch it out because my My personal peace and happiness is resting in this particular area we who are believers praise God Are not left with that as as our basis Our hope is in God and that's Peter's subject hope He says you can Remain with the same master regardless of what kind you can remain with the same husband you can remain with the same wife Particularly where there is a spiritual element shared by more than one person if you're both Trying to grow toward Christ you will almost inevitably grow toward one another and So his whole point here is that we ought to look different not to say, you know, you can't have a have a trauma in your life, but Week by week month by month year by year.

We ought to look different because we're not driven by this Need for personal fulfillment that can only be satisfied in circumstances that only can be satisfied in relationships we have a Personal fulfillment. We have a destiny. We have a a sense of our worth Because the Lord Jesus Christ Purchased us we belong to him.

We are part of him and because of that we are also Related to one another in a supernatural way and it's different It's a different culture. It's a different view of life and our Our Satisfaction and our peace and our basic level of happiness Ought to be and and necessarily should be in that area not just in The slings and arrows of subjective life eyes on people eyes on things and how does that relate to me myself and I? That's what Peter is talking about. So when he gets to verse 15 and he says Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts set him apart look at him as Unique as special.

This is something no unbeliever can do. This is something most believers don't know how to do because they don't Get the truth of God's Word into their souls for any one of a variety of reasons either. It's not being taught.

They're not Exposing themselves to it. They're hearing it and not responding to it It's as the memory they used to say head knowledge and not heart knowledge. You can hear it.

You can agree it You can assent to it, but you don't really Meditate on it. It doesn't be it doesn't get incorporated into thinking Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts. This is our privilege.

This is our family heritage Remember Hank Williams jr. Had that song a couple of decades ago Family tradition and he says, you know people ask me Hank. Why do you drink? Why do you roll smokes? Why do you do this at the other and he's harking back to his dad Hank senior who you know tragic what he died at the age of 28 because he was boozing and Smoking and carrying on and you know died young And he says well, it's a family tradition Hank why do you live this wild like, you know, Hank Williams jr Had a horrible motorcycle wreck in which he was nearly killed. And the reason he had to grow that beard is his face was all Took him out on a 13 surgeries or something to reconstruct.

He had 90 something fractures in his face. I mean he was If it wasn't for modern technology, he'd have followed his dad in leaving at a young age, but he said it's a family tradition. Well that's that's a typical human type family tradition we have a Family tradition that is far greater far better And we are a part of something larger than ourselves something that partakes of God something that partakes of eternity That's what eternal life is.

It's not pie in the sky by and by it's not I'm gonna get resurrected grow wings and play a harp and walk streets of gold we sanctify the Lord God in our hearts we Have that temple of the Holy Spirit where the Shekinah of God dwells, that's what defines us That's what separates us. That's what makes us unique in the world as Christians as believers, so Peter says don't forget who you are remember who you are and when you look at that as the song says the things of this Life will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace Things of earth will go strangely dim. That's in that turn your eyes upon Jesus song and it's true Looking at God these things become less important and and that's the key to success in Applying in fulfilling it's one thing for the Bible.

It's one thing for the pastor. It's one thing for Somebody to say well, come on now persevere endure keep on keeping on you be submissive to that master You'd be submissive to that squirrely husband. You've got you be You honor your wife when you're when you don't think you ought to have to or whatever that all of this advice that Peter is given and these of course are representative examples that apply in all other circumstances employment or social life or Any other endeavor that we interact with people he says relax I'm gonna invent a new word called Disinvest I'm gonna I'm gonna D invest myself I'm gonna pull out of trying to get my fulfillment out of this relationship or this situation I'm gonna pull out of it because my inheritance is in heaven My citizenship is in heaven my God whom I sanctify in my heart my Savior the Lord Jesus Christ is in heaven I'm looking forward to that.

I can put up with this Two-bit stuff. It's like, you know, it's like an overseas tour in the military. I can survive this because I know I'm going home I'm counting the days got a marked on the calendar and I'm just waiting I can put up with this stuff It's only so many more months only so many more weeks only so many more days and then I will be back and I can Kiss this stuff.

Goodbye That's our heritage. So Sanctify the Lord God actually sanctify Christ as Lord, you remember that was our better text The Lord Jesus Christ is our model for this. He lived his earthly

life according to that paradigm and be ready always to give an apology to give a an explanation a rationale an Understanding to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you And not just in you individually remember this in whom in is plural That is among you that characterizes healthy Growing Christians in general all you Christians seem to Be able to float above the noise and and be happy when when I would be miserable You're in a situation that would crush me.

You don't seem to be crushed With meekness and fear with meekness This Word is is not a very common one proud a toss and Again humility my favorite definition of humility is strength under control It is power restrained by self-discipline this is the ox that obeys The reins as he's pulling the plow that is far too heavy for any human to pull through the rocky soil the ox pulls that plow through the soil and he is powerful he could easily turn and maul the man who is Hooking him to the plow and directing him down that furrow or soon-to-be furrow, but he doesn't he is Powerful, but his power is under control He knows that it's best in the long run He's going to get to go back and get his feed and rest at the end of the day and he patiently does what he is guided to do by his Farmer owner there, and that's humility. It's it isn't weakness. It's not give up itis It's not resignation.

It's not apathy humility is Bringing our strength under control reigning it in directing it in a productive fruitful Way and direction, so that's prowl Titas and phobu phobos I Learned a new thing in my software here It's got a little link where you can you can right-click it and it says go to Perseus Which is an online Greek database and it'll it'll take you to the Liddell and Scott if you've ever been in my house And seen the the biggest book on the shelf. It's about this thick It's got green covers And it's the Liddell and Scott classical Greek lexicon the thing if you ever need to glue something and and put weight on it to hold It Liddell and Scott is your book that thing weighs like you know 18 pounds. It's enormous That's the biggest book I've ever owned well, it's online now and Logos has links into it so you can right-click a Greek word And it will take you to the Liddell and Scott online and the great thing is when I get out my Liddell and Scott and I ponderously Planted on my desk, and I go look up a word and it's giving me all of these classical usages It'll say well.

It's it's used by Euripides here. It's used in fact. I think I've got it up here For Phobos and It gives you all of these usages well in the Perseus database.

They've got all of that stuff online in Greek and in English, so if it says well, this is how this word was used by you know Aeschylus or whatever Well, it's got the little notation there you you click that and up it comes in English And then you click a tab and here's the Greek and so you can see exactly how it was used I got so distracted using it almost forgot to come down here tonight because I thought wow this is great look at this I can I was reading these old Greek plays and and seeing how the classical Greeks used these words And I don't know if you have this experience, but sometimes you just get so fascinated with a thing you lose all Notions of what you're supposed to be doing, but it was I I'm gonna probably spend half my weekend chasing

down words in classical But Phobos what was interesting to me is when I started looking at its classical Greek roots It confirms the translation that we have been using where it is Sometimes it is fear and terror, but many other times even in classical Greek it is Respectful obedience it is it is respect for the potential of a thing I Fear I was reading one play over the guy says I fear that you do not understand my meaning Here's a guy standing there with a sword fixing to do some kind of damage And he says he doesn't say I fear you're gonna chop me to blunders. He says I fear you have mistaken my meaning I fear you've misunderstood and You know let me let me Explain to you what's going on and there and many other usages, but here especially in New Testament Greek the idea is if you are fearing an authority you respect the potential for what could go wrong if you if you mess up I I fear The death penalty in the sense that I would never Be tempted to go commit a capital crime For any one of a number of reasons not the least of which is I don't want to you know Get fried in the electric chair. I don't want to may it mainly I don't want to stand before God at the judgment seat and try to explain why I committed a capital crime.

That's my faux boss but it knowledge of the consequences and the reality of things instills in us a healthy respect and we obey because we know the consequences of not obeying and For us this is we have sanctified Christ in our hearts, and he's the one we do not want to disappoint he's the one we do not want to fall short of we do not want to be ashamed at his appearing and So we obey it, but this is something that people without a relationship with God. Just don't have as a dynamic. It's not a Motivation it's not a power in their life God's not real and if God isn't real if the future isn't real then that holds no sway that has no motive effect in our souls, but for us who have the chance to see these realities regularly and And often reinforced in Scripture It is a reality and it does make a difference in how we think and how we act and that's the power of God the presence of God and the reality of God makes a difference This is why people would ask about the hope that is in us and when we answer when we Apollos Gia We do it with Meekness we do it with fear because we still have our eyes on the Lord Jesus.

We don't say ah a potential victim let me win you to Christ by scaring you with fire and brimstone or let me let me Show you the way because I am so wise that I found it and you haven't found it yet and I'll be your mentor and I'll guide you into the into the kingdom. There's people that get kind of a a perverse pleasure out of Finding a thing and then wanting to go show others the way to what they found whether it's a coupon or salvation You know, I found a good deal. Let me show it to you and there's people that just that's They'll search the earth to find somebody that doesn't already know something they know so that they can tell it to them It's just a it's certain people are built that way all of us probably have that element somewhere But we that's not why we do it We do it with meekness and we do it with fear because the Lord Jesus Christ is sanctified in our hearts.

So With Because I asked myself why did Peter tack that on be ready always to give an answer to anyone ask you reason for the hope That is in you period That would work Why does he say with meekness and fear? Well, what would happen if you did that without meekness and without fear?

What kind of evangelism would it be? It'd be the kind you see all around us. It would be this this disruptive Overbearing almost arrogant intrusion into people they they ask an innocent question and it's like asking the fire station for a drink and you just Dump everything, you know on them and they're a captive audience. They can't get away.

That's more than they wanted to know they're struggling to escape and within the constraints of good manners and you're just Treating them like a captive audience. That's not meekness and that's not fear. That's not looking to the Lord for guidance Should I pursue this conversation? Should I keep talking? Should I stop for breath and let this person ask another question or see if they don't have any more questions? meekness Which is basically respect for the person you're talking to Just because you asked me that's not a double-oh-seven a license to kill license to evangelize license to preach Ask a question.

I give an answer look at the Lord Jesus. They would ask him questions and many times He would give a short sort of mysterious Reply to see if the person would keep asking to see if they were still interested and it's a great model, you know Anybody can can fire hose look at me It's it's to pull back and Let the other person talk they might be asking a completely different question. Maybe you misunderstood meekness Respectful obedience to God who says don't trample people in your enthusiasm for what you're talking about For it is better verse 17 if it is the will of God.

You remember that's that fourth. That's almost a fifth-class condition It's a very rare construction in Greek Probably not true, but just in case that's the fifth-class condition In the unlikely event that you do actually have to suffer it would be better to do it For doing good than for doing evil and the implication here is that if you don't speak with meekness and fear if you don't wait Until you are asked You may end up suffering rightly Because you're no longer really doing good the Final thought I want to address before we leave this first session which will happen momentarily is If you go back to Psalm 119 74 Psalm 119 74 it really sums up The approach that Peter is giving us here Those who fear you will be glad when they see me Because I have hoped in your word if our life as a servant or as a master as a husband or as a wife as anyone related to other people in that construction of human relationship that involves authority and submission all through human society all through family all through the world If our behavior Ends up making it to where people are not glad to see us Then we have failed those who fear you Will be glad when they see me now. It doesn't mean that we can't be Strict that we can't be forceful that we can't occasionally Disappoint someone because we are being stern instead of being You know all things to all people But those who fear God will recognize the judicious exercise of authority or the gracious submission to authority that is based on Looking to God sanctifying Christ in our hearts Those who fear you will be glad when they see me Because I have hoped in your word you think about that this hope that is supposed to be visible and evident in us does Two things for people who fear God They are glad to see us.

It is a fellowship. It is a communion and for those who don't yet fear God They're going to be

curious Some of them be ready always to give an answer to those who ask you a reason for the hope that is in you so this this Type of submission this biblical submission is Attractive he goes on to say So that later on when if people speak ill of you, they're going to end up being ashamed. They're going to be put to shame Because it's unjust it's obviously Unfair it's obviously uncalled for they're going to make a fool of themselves to speak evil of you when you have this kind of Submission it is Attractive it it draws it's a little bit of a of a see-through to God and those who have any appreciation for God and Righteousness and the things that God has to offer are going to be drawn by that and Because it is submission rather than domination because it is meekness rather than aggressiveness There shouldn't be any legitimate way to speak ill of it any ill speaking is going to be illegitimate and we'll put to shame the person who is speaking it and that's sort of a Way to tell if we're doing it right or not.

Is there any legitimate gripe with us? Are we being you know, snappy and obstreperous in our Submission. Well, that's not really doing it, right and we can do it We can be legitimately spoken ill of for that But if we have genuine humility if we're doing it for God because of God looking to God sanctifying the Lord Jesus in our hearts How can we be legitimately ill spoken of those who fear God are going to be glad to see us and those who have any? Potential to come to God are going to ask us where that hope comes from. What a great thing to be said of anyone that Their life and their behavior Drew people toward them and through them to God and that's that's the the best kind of evangelism Well, we'll pause here and take our break when we come back.

We'll pick up with the rest of verse 17 and move forward in this chapter