



HOPE

IN THE DARKNESS

Studies in I Peter

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Blessed People Bless:

Grace Living Amidst the Cruelty of a Hostile Culture

I Peter 3:9-12

INTRODUCTION:

- #blessed
- *1 Peter 3:8 – To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit.*



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Bless Those Who Revile You

- The Natural Response to Hostility
 - We tend to respond in kind – “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.”
 - We tend to respond in excess – “I never get even, I always get ahead.”



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Bless Those Who Revile You

- The Supernatural Response to Hostility
 - By grace
 - I can petition God to extend mercy and favor upon my enemies
 - just like, through Christ, God has extended mercy and favor upon me, a former enemy of God (Rom. 8:7, James 4:4)
- “I am not so sure about all of this!”



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Bless Those Who Revile You

“As Christians, we can live on three levels. We can return evil for good, which is the satanic level. We can return good for good and evil for evil, which is the human level. Or, we can return good for evil, which is the divine level. Jesus is the perfect example of this latter approach (1 Peter 2:21-23). . . . We must operate on the basis of mercy, for that is the way God deals with us.” – Warren Wiersbe



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Blessing Those Who Revile You and Experiencing the Good Life

This is an “ancient recipe for a happy life.”

- David and the Good Life (Ps. 34:12-16)
- Defining the Good Life (vs.10)
 - *Psalm 34:12 – Who is the man who desires life and loves length of days that he may see good?*
 - According to Psalm 34, the good life is a long, full life of righteous living, loving others, and walking with God.



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Blessing Those Who Revile You and Experiencing the Good Life

- Living the Good Life (vs.10-11)
 - Restrain Your Tongue
 - Shun Evil
 - Practice Good
 - Chase Peace



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Blessing Those Who Revile You and Experiencing the Good Life

- God's Gaze and the Good Life (vs.12)
 - God's Eyes – God sees when we repay good for evil.
 - God's Ears – God leans in to hear our humble cries for help.
 - God's Face – God expresses His displeasure upon the perpetrators of evil.



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CONCLUSIONS

1. In Christ, we are ever so blessed.
2. In this life, we will experience suffering and persecution.
3. Even in the midst of persecution (and blessing our persecutors), we can experience the good life.
4. Biblically understood, the good life is more about fullness from righteous living and the gaze of God than wealth and favorable circumstances.



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