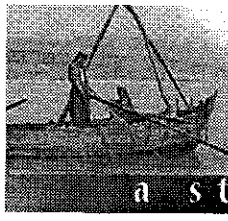

LIVING HOPE *in troubled times*

MARANATHA CHAPEL

a study in first peter

SATURDAY & SUNDAY • OCTOBER 31 & NOVEMBER 1, 2009

BLESSINGS IN DISGUISE • 1 PETER 3:13-17

I. GOD'S GRACE IN SUFFERING

A. CALLED TO 'DOING GOOD' - verse 13

- Finding Your Promised Land

- Jesus specifically prayed that we would not be removed from the world (John 17)
- Jesus also said to "Occupy" until He returns (Luke 19:13 KJV)

- The Kingdom Of God Is Upon Us
  - Mark 1:15 - *The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.*
  - Luke 11:20 - *But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.*

- Daniel Tells Us His Kingdom Will Crush All Others
  - Daniel 2:44 - *And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.*

- Acts 10:38 - *How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.*

B. PETER'S PERSPECTIVE OF SUFFERING - verses 14-15

- Peter's Experience

(over)

- Acts 5:40-42 - *And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.*

- The Fear Of The Lord Conquers All Other Fears!
  - Peter quotes Isaiah 8:13-14
- Sanctify The Lord In Your Hearts
- Be Ready To Give A Defense Or Answer
  - This doesn't mean "I'm sorry" but is called the study of "apologetics" or a defense of the faith.

- Meekness And Fear – Gentleness And Respect

C. A POWERFUL WITNESS FOR CHRIST - verses 16-17

- CONSCIENCE – THE WINDOW OF THE SOUL
  - A Conscience can be compared to a Window that lets in the light of God's truth.

- Sometimes It Is God's Will To Suffer
  - If we suffer for doing good, we should rejoice! A blessing comes down upon us!
  - Acts 17:6 - *These who have turned the world upside down have come here too.*

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