

3 Mar 2013: Preached by Elder John Leong

Topic: **Epistle of 1 Peter – To love life and see good days**

Scripture Text: 1 Peter 3: 8-12

1. Christians should love life and experience good days as taught in verse 10. Our lives ought to be lived in richness and fullness. Good days are days that are meaningful, purposeful and not empty and vain. The Bible's definition of living and loving the good life is opposite from the world which advocates enjoyment, pleasures, lusts and possessions. King Solomon who has all these that the world called good life said in Eccl 2:17, "I hated life".

2. When Peter was writing to the Christians in Epistle of 1st Peter, they were suffering, persecuted, poor living in a hostile environment. It was natural for them to hate life and said they were going through bad days. But the Bible gives them in v.8-12 the 4 biblical principles of loving life and seeing good days. These principles have nothing to do with the external and outside circumstances.

3. The 1st principle is in verse 8 to have a right attitude towards everybody. This includes being of one mind (harmonious and peace-loving), having compassion one of another (sympathetic and to suffer with others in pain and sorrow), brotherly love (this will lead to unselfish service to others), pitiful (tender-hearted and gentle), courteous (humble and meek). A lot of sorrows and pain in life is due to relationship and when we possess the right biblical attitude towards others, we really love life and will see good days.

4. The 2nd principle is in v.9,10b,11 which is to have the right response no matter how we are treated. We must resolve to follow the Lord by not retaliating or taking revenge. We must never render evil for evil or railing for railing. Instead, we should bless others which means to love them, pray for them, be thankful for them and wish them well. In short, this is really forgiveness we must exhibit to others. When there is no bitterness and grudge, we can love life and see good days.

5. The 3rd principle is to build our lives in the right standard which is the authority of God's Word. 1 Peter 3:10-12 is quoted from Psalm 34: 12-16. What Peter exhorts the reader is not from his own wisdom or experience. It is based in the authority of God's Word. If we want to love life and see good days, we must live in obedience to God's Word.

6. The 4th principle is in v.12 which is the right incentive. We want to follow the ways of the Lord to love life and see good days because God promises to watch over us and care for us. When we walk in His way, He will attend to our prayers. In contrast, if we live in disobedience, we face the judgment and anger of the Lord.