



A Good Life ... In a Hostile World

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

April 15, 2018

Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

For, "Whoever would love life and see good days ... 1 Peter 3:8-17 (9-10a)

The Good Life

1) Life Foundations – 5 Irreducible Character Traits – vs. 8

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

2) Life Application – vs. 9

- a. Do not _____ when attacked
- b. _____ those who mistreat us

3) Seek _____ and _____ God – vs. 10-12

The Context – A Hostile World

1) The _____ – vs. 13-14a

2) A Few Instructions

- a. _____ Up – vs. 14a
- b. _____ Up – vs. 14b
- c. _____ Up – vs. 15a
- d. _____ Up – vs. 15b
- e. _____ Up – vs. 16

3) In _____ – vs. 17

Truth for Life

For the week of April 15, 2018

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. How is your worldview different from the worldview of the culture you live in? Has that changed during your lifetime? How? Is your worldview more acceptable today? Or less acceptable? If current trends continue, do you ever envision a time when living out faith in your community may be difficult, or even result in persecution? Explain.

2. Read 1 Peter 3:8-9 in a few translations. We divided the 2 verses as Character Traits (vs. 8) and Life Application (vs. 9). Work through and define each of the 5 traits in vs. 8. How are each necessary in relationships? What happens when they are absent?

Now let's apply the 5 character traits in difficult situations (vs. 9). What is Peter's instruction? How are the character traits critical to carry out that instruction? Is this a fair request? Why or why not? Interact with the statement, "to this were you called ..." (vs.9). Fair/Unfair? Does knowing that God has a purpose for even your suffering help you in any way? If so, how?

3. If a friend who's not a Christian approached you tomorrow and genuinely asked, "Why are you a Christian?", what would be your first gut reaction?

4. The story of your own spiritual journey is one of the most powerful tools you have to tell others about Jesus. If someone were to ask you, "What has God done for you?", or, "What difference has being a follower of Jesus made in your life?", what might you say regarding...

- ... how you relate to and view others?
- ... how you view what's most important/priorities?
- ... how you view yourself?

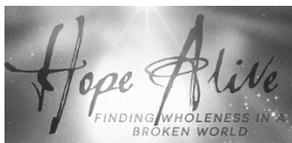
5. When asked about our faith we all want to be able to get our point across and speak in such a way that our words have an impact. What advice do the following verses give to accomplish this?

- 2 Timothy 2:23-25
- Titus 3:1-2
- James 3:17

What advice would you give a Christian who continually wins the spiritual arguments, but ends up offending or ostracizing others?

Memory Verse

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. - 1 Peter 2:21



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The Good Life

1) Life Foundations – 5 Irreducible Character Traits – vs. 8

- a. **Harmony**
- b. **Sympathy**
- c. **Brotherly Love**
- d. **Compassion**
- e. **Humility**

2) Life Application – vs. 9

- a. Do not **retaliate** when attacked
- b. **Bless** those who mistreat us

3) Seek **Peace** and **Trust** God – vs. 10-12

The Context – A Hostile World

1) The **Potential** – vs. 13-14a

2) A Few Instructions

- a. **Cheer** Up – vs. 14a
- b. **Give** Up– vs. 14b
- c. **Lift** Up – vs. 15a
- d. **Speak** Up – vs. 15b
- e. **Shape** Up – vs. 16

3) In **Summary** – vs. 17

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