

HOPE TO COPE 6 – “HOPE FOR UNITY AND COMMUNITY”

INTRO. READ LETTER FROM GARCIAS.

READ 1 PETER 3:8. Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.

PRAY

IN THIS NEXT SECTION = SOME GEN. ADVICE ON HOW TO RELATE TO EA. OTHER AS CHRIST FOLLOWERS IN A SECULARIZED CULTURE.

*** JOHN 13:34-35 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”**

PREVIOUSLY LOOKED AT PUTTING GOD FIRST IN OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD GOVERNING AUTHORITIES, WORK, MARRIAGE, ESP. IN REGARD TO UNBELIEVERS. FOCUS HAS BEEN ON SERVING EVEN THOSE WHO ARE DIFFICULT FOR THE SAKE OF FOLLOWING CHRIST.

BIG IDEA TODAY: Learn to live in harmony based on truth in such a way that people see our faithfulness and are drawn to Jesus.

A. WHEN SYMPATHIZING DRIVES US TO ACTION = SO POWERFUL. RECENTLY YOU HAVE REACHED OUT AS CHURCH NOT ONLY TO IJM AND GARCIAS AT EASTER, BUT ALSO 8 MORE KIDS SPONSORED THROUGH COMPASSION AND 19 OF US PARTICIPATING IN “REDLANDS HUNGER WALK” LAST WEEK. THAT’S SHOWING COMPASSION. SYMPATHY IN ACTION.

***BEING PART OF A SMALL GROUP = GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW COMPASSION AND PRACTICE THE "One another's"**

BUT WHAT ABOUT SHOWING COMPASSION TO EGR’S, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO PERSECUTE US FOR BEING BELIEVERS?

1. WE CAN SHOW COMPASSION BY LOOKING PAST THE HURT TO THEIR HURT. **Acknowledge the hurt behind the hurt. PRAY FOR THEM IN COMPASSION.**

(NEIGHBOR WHO IS VERY UNFRIENDLY)

II. 1 PETER 3:9-12 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. 10 For,

“Whoever would love life

and see good days

must keep their tongue from evil

and their lips from deceitful speech.

11 They must turn from evil and do good;

they must seek peace and pursue it.

12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous

and his ears are attentive to their prayer,

but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”[a]

- **WE’VE ALSO BEEN TALKING OF FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT. INCLUDES LOVE AND KINDNESS.**
- **FRUIT OF FLESH IN GAL. 5 = FACTIONS, DIVISION – YET OVER THE YEARS SEE THIS IN CHURCHES. TITUS 3:9-10 WARNS. WHEN**

CHURCHES SPLIT OVER MINUTIA – BAD TESTIMONY TO OUTSIDERS. (KNEW OF ONE CHURCH THAT HAD TO CALL PARAMEDICS AT A BOARD MEETING BECAUSE SOME OVERCAME WITH EMOTION AND PASSED OUT)

- PEOPLE GET ON FACEBOOK AND GOSSIP ABOUT THEIR PAST CHURCH.**
- RICK WARREN – EVEN AFTER SON’S SUICIDE HATERS CONTINUED TO BERATE OVER THEOLOGY THEY DISAGREED WITH.**
- DIVORCED PASTOR’S WIFE TOLD ME RECENTLY HOW DEACON AND FAMILY WOULD GET UP AND LEAVE SERVICE WHEN WHISTLE BLEW AT FACTORY DOWN THE STREET THAT DENOTED AN HOUR WAS UP.**

***ONE DISGRUNTLED MEMBER 4 YEARS AGO OR SO ASKED ME, “WHEN ARE WE GOING TO STUDY THE BIBLE?” WHILE WE WERE GOING THROUGH “40 DAYS IN THE WORD” SERIES.**

****AS BELIEVERS PETER’S ADVICE = DON’T RETURN INSULT FOR INSULT.**

2. **WITH EGR'S – Cut them some slack.**

TRUST GOD TO CHANGE THEIR HEART. IF FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT, YOU HAVE THE RESOURCES TO BE PATIENT THEY MAY NOT HAVE. SOMETIMES WE WILL NEED PEOPLE TO DO THIS FOR US.

3. **Forgive them because you've been forgiven – CAN'T HELP BUT THINK OF HOW JESUS PRAYED FOR US ON THE CROSS WHILE MOST PEOPLE CURSED AND THREW INSULTS.**

4. **Refuse to gossip about them. GOD HATES IT! TRUST ME, YOUR GOSSIPY FRIENDS WILL TURN ON YOU EVENTUALLY. “Vent more to your mentor.”**

***THIS PASSAGE REMINDS US:**

- A. **When you bless, you get a blessing**
- B. **You can love life and see good days when you refuse to be bitter. (it effects your health!)**

C. The eyes of the Lord = on the righteous. He will hear your prayers (but not if you pick at your wife – see last week)

D. Face of the Lord is against those who do evil. YOU ARE GOING TO WANT GOD'S POWER AND FAVOR. (A LOT OF PROMISES IN THE BIBLE ARE "IF/THEN). IT'S WORTH GIVING UP SOME ANGER/GRUDGES TO GET THESE 4 THINGS!

III. 1 PETER 3:13-14. Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? 14 But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats[a]; do not be frightened."[b]

A. IN GENERAL TERMS – DOING GOOD IS IT'S OWN REWARD. BIBLE SAYS TO "BE AT PEACE WITH ALL MEN AS FAR AS IT IS UP TO YOU". SHOWING COMPASSION AND SYMPATHY IN ACTION WILL HELP. BUT WHEN IT DOESN'T. . .

B. JESUS SAID IN MATT. 5:10-12. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,

C. for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

D.11 “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. – BLESSED IF PERSECUTED FOR "RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE". (NOT FOR GETTING IN TROUBLE FOR DOING WRONG). BE FAITHFUL AND TRUST GOD FOR THE RESULTS.

****GOD WILL NOT WASTE YOUR NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES IF YOU PUT THEM IN HIS HANDS. he can turn them into blessing!**

****”STANDING STONE” – FOR PASTORS AND THEIR SPOUSES. HAS GIVEN ME A DIFFERENT ATTITUDE TOWARD HIGHS AND LOWS OF MINISTRY.**

- RICHARD WERBRANDT AND “TORTURED FOR CHRIST” FOR 14 YEARS IN COMMUNIST ROMANIA. STARTED “VOICE OF THE MARTYRS”. HE WOULD SAY IT WAS WORTH IT!**

IV. 1 PETER 3:15-17. But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the

hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 17 For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

**A. IN A HOSTILE SKEPTICAL ENVIRONMENT,
PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW THE "WHY"S.
BE READY WITH SOME.**

***START BY PUTTING CHRIST FIRST IN YOUR
OWN HEART – STRENGTHENING YOUR FAITH.
KNOW WHY YOU BELIEVE WHAT YOU BELIEVE
AND PRACTICE SHARING IT IN SIMPLE WAYS
WITH PEOPLE. ("KNOW WHY YOU BELIEVE"
BOOK, PAUL LITTLE)**

**GREEKS RESPECTED LOGICAL REASONABLE
ARGUMENTS. INTELLIGENT STATEMENTS.**

- COME TO "CASE FOR CHRIST" MOVIE NIGHT
(INVITE SKEPTICS YOU KNOW). PICK UP
INVITATION CARDS YOU CAN USE ALL SUMMER
(HOLD UP)**

- GET AHOLD OF GOOD RESOURCES – WHY WE HAD CRAIG HAZEN.

***TONS OF REASONS – EVIDENCE – BOTH HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL. EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY, FULFILLED PROPHECY IN HISTORY (PHENOMENAL ODDS ALL COULD HAPPEN BY COINCIDENCE). CHANGED LIVES LIKE YOURS.**

1 PETER 3:15 teaches. . .

As your love for God grows, it overflows.

Boldness is not rudeness. IT'S JUST THAT YOU ARE WILLING TO SPEAK UP WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT.

If you don't know, say so. THEN FIND OUT. EMAIL ME.

****WE SAID PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW IF CHRISTIANITY WORKS IN REAL LIFE, THEN THEY WANT TO KNOW IF IT IS TRUE OR NOT.**

Good character and a few of your reasons to believe = very powerful combination.

B. IF THEY THINK YOUR MOTIVE FOR THE TRUTH YOU SHARE = HATE, SHOW THEM IT IS COMPASSION INSTEAD.

***SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE.**

(show "Case for Christ clip 1)

V. 1 Peter 3:18-20. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. 19 After being made alive,[a]("in which also") he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— 20 to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water. . .

MAIN POINT: CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS ONCE FOR ALL WHEN WE WERE UNRIGHTEOUS. HE WAS PUT TO DEATH IN THE BODY, BUT RAISED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH WHICH. . AT LEAST 3 POSSIBILITIES

1. PREACHED. WHEN? IN THE DAYS OF NOAH WHEN THE ARK WAS BEING BUILT. THE SPIRIT OF

CHRIST WAS PREACHING THROUGH NOAH TO THOSE WHO WERE LOST AND ARE NOW IN HADES, THE ABODE OF THE DEAD. THESE WERE THE EVIL DEAD BEFORE THE FLOOD. (ONE POSSIBILITY).

2. JESUS ACTUALLY SENT TO HADES AND GAVE MERCY AND A SECOND CHANCE FOR DEAD FROM NOAH'S TIME WHO NEVER HEARD THE GOSPEL TO REPENT. MORE A POETIC REMINDER THAT THERE IS NOWHERE HIS MERCY DOES NOT REACH.

3. JESUS PROCLAIMED VICTORY AND FINAL DOOM TO FALLEN ANGELS IN THE ABYSS.

DIFFERENT SCHOLARS HAVE MORE OPINIONS, BUT WHAT THIS DOES NOT TEACH:

1. JESUS DIDN'T HAVE TO SUBMIT HIMSELF TO HELL TO TAKE ON MORE PUNISHMENT FOR US. SAID, "IT IS FINISHED" ON THE CROSS.

2. THIS DOES NOT TEACH A "DOCTRINE OF THE SECOND CHANCE" FOR ANYONE AFTER WE DIE.

HEBREWS 9:27

27 Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment

B. SO WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO NEVER HEAR?

***ROMANS 2:12-16. All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. 13 For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. 14 (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. 15 They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.) 16 This will take place on the day when God judges people's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.**

- SAYS GOD JUDGES ACCORDING TO THE LIGHT (KNOWLEDGE) AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE AND HOW THEY RESPOND TO IT. GENTILES WILL**

NOT BE CONDEMNED FOR NOT OBEYING A LAW THEY DO NOT POSSESS, BUT FOR PRACTICING WHAT THEIR CONSCIENCE GUIDED BY GOD MAY LEAD THEM TO DO THAT AGREES WITH GOD'S LAW. (SUCH AS BEING FAITHFUL TO THEIR MARRIAGE, FORGIVING OTHERS, CARING FOR THE POOR, ETC.) GOD COULD ALSO SEND MISSIONARIES TO THEM. (MOSLEMS SEEING VISIONS IN AREAS MISSIONARIES CANNOT GO, ETC.) MISSIONARIES BEING DRAWN TO SPECIFIC AREAS WHERE GOD KNOWS HEARTS ARE OPEN, SEEKING, ETC.

***NOT A REASON TO SQUELCH EVANGELISM OR MISSION AND THE MESSAGE OF GRACE PEOPLE NEED! BETTER TO TELL THEM ABOUT JESUS IN AN AGE OF GRACE!**

(STARTING A BIBLE STUDY AT MY HOUSE THROUGH REST OF 1 PETER AND JAMES TO ASK QUESTIONS, LEARN MORE, REACH OUT AND INVITE. BEGINS TUESDAY NIGHTS AFTER FATHER'S DAY. 7 pm - 8:30 pm.

CONCLUSION:

1 PETER 3:21-22. and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God.[a] It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

A. DOUBLE FIGURE – USES FLOOD TO SYMBOLIZE BAPTISM, WHILE BAPTISM SYMBOLIZES SALVATION.

- FLOOD = DEATH TO EVIL**
- BAPTISM = DEATH TO SIN AND DYING TO SELF THROUGH THE DBR OF CHRIST. THE SYMBOL IS USED TO REFER TO THE REALITY.**

***NOAH AND HIS FAMILY WERE NOT SAVED BY THE WATER. THEY WERE SAVED BY GOD THROUGH THE WATER.**

****THE CHRIST FOLLOWER IS NOT SAVED BY THE WATER, BUT BY JESUS AND HIS DBR THAT THE WATER SYMBOLIZES.**

BUT. . .IT IS MORE THAN A RITUAL (IMMERSION W. REPENTANCE. NOT INFANT BAPTISM BEING DISCUSSED HERE.)

“PLEDGE” – GK. EPEROTEMA = BINDING CONTRACT; THE PART OF THE CONTRACT WHERE YOU ARE ASKED IF YOU ACCEPT THE TERMS AND BIND YOURSELF TO THEM. WHERE YOU COMMIT YOURSELF TO OBSERVE THEM BEFORE WITNESSES. THE HOLY SPIRIT BAPTIZES US INTO THE CHURCH, THE BRIDE OF CHRIST (1 CORINTHIANS 12:13). SO BAPTISM IS LIKE A WEDDING CEREMONY/CONTRACT THAT SEALS AND TESTIFIES TO YOUR COMMITMENT. **MATTHEW 10:32-33 “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. 33 But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.**

***JESUS WAS BAPTIZED TO FULFILL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS AS AN EXAMPLE FOR US.**

****RANDY AT MY BAPTISM**

- I PUT IT OFF FOR 2 YEARS. DIDN'T WANT TO BE SEEN WITH MY LONG HAIR ALL WET IN HIGH SCHOOL. #1 FEAR WAS PUBLIC EMBARRASSMENT.
- MAYBE PETER WRITES THIS BECAUSE AT TIME OF PERSECUTION SOME IN THE CHURCH MAY HAVE BEEN AFRAID OF MAKING A PUBLIC COMMITMENT. DID IT ANYWAY AT THREAT OF DEATH FROM PERSECUTION!

****REMINDER IN LAST VERSE (V. 22) = EVERYTHING IN THIS SECTION THAT PETER SAYS WE ARE TO SUBMIT TO, ARE IN REALITY IN SUBMISSION TO CHRIST. (REMEMBER PILATE?). SO HE SAYS, DON'T BE AFRAID. GOD IS IN CONTROL!**

****WHATEVER YOUR FEARS ARE, JESUS SAYS- " LET ME SHOW YOU HOW I CAN WALK YOU THROUGH THAT".**

SATAN ON THE OTHER HAND SAYS, "DO IT TOMORROW"

LISTEN TO JESUS' VOICE FIRST, AND ENJOY A LIFE THAT IS TRULY BLESSED! IT CAN START TODAY!

BAPTISMS TODAY, OR COME AFTER SERVICE OR MARK ON CARD AND LET'S MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOURS. (WILL EMAIL YOU HAND OUTS.)

PRAY

SUGGESTED RESOURCES: "KNOW WHY YOU BELIEVE" BY PAUL LITTLE. "FIVE SACRED CROSSINGS", A NOVEL BY CRAIG HAZEN.

NEXT WK. FATHER'S DAY – COME A LITTLE EARLY FOR SOME FUN. WILL TALK ABOUT THE STEPS IN GROWING UP IN CHRIST AND HOW TO GET THERE.

JULY 16 MOVIE NIGHT - CASE FOR CHRIST COMING IN ABOUT A MONTH.

SHOW "CASE FOR CHRIST" CLIP 2

