

“The Will of God”

1 PETER Chapter 3:13-22

D) IS OUR SANTIFICATION (v13-17)

“Be Fearless—Be Ready—Be Meek—Do Good!”

(v13) “Become a follower of what is GOOD!” Look for GOOD opportunities!

(v14a) If you suffer for righteousness sake you are BLESSED! Meaning HAPPY!

(v14b) “DON’T BE AFRAID!”

- 2 Tim 1:7- For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

- 1 John 4:17-19- Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. *We love Him because He first loved us.*

(v15-16) “SANCTIFY the Lord God in hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the HOPE that is in you, with meekness and fear” - What is SANCTIFICATION? In summary, it is the process of God's grace by which the believer is separated from sin and becomes dedicated to God's righteousness. This is accomplished by the Word of God (John 17:7) and the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:3-4), sanctification results in holiness, or purification from the guilt and power of sin. Sanctification as separation from the world and setting apart for God's service is a concept found throughout the Bible. Jesus said in **Matthew 10:27-33- *“Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. *“Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.****

➤ **What’s this HOPE that’s in us?** (Observe 4 “HOPE” promises.)

#1 – JESUS IS OUR HOPE OF SALVATION! **1 Thess 5:8-9** - *But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

#2 – JESUS IS OUR HOPE FOR ETERNAL LIFE! - **Titus 3:4-7** - *But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

#3 – JESUS IS OUR HOPE OF GLORY! - **Colossians 1:27** - *To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

#4 – JESUS IS OUR BLESSED HOPE! – **Titus 2:13-14** - *looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.*

(17a) What is a “GOOD CONSCIENCE”? Warren Wiersbe writes, “Conscience depends on knowledge, the “light” coming through the window. As a believer studies the Word, he better understands the will of God, and his conscience becomes more sensitive to right and wrong. A “good conscience” is one that accuses when we think or do wrong and approves when we do right. It takes “exercise” to keep the conscience strong and pure (Acts 24:16). If we do not grow in spiritual knowledge and obedience, we have a “weak conscience” that is upset very easily by trifles (1 Cor 8). If we are to maintain a good conscience, we must deal with sin in our lives and confess it immediately (1 John 1:9). We must “keep the window clean.” We must also spend time in the Word

of God and "let in the light." A strong conscience is the result of obedience based on knowledge, and a strong conscience makes for a strong Christian witness to the lost. It also gives us strength in times of persecution and difficulty."

(v17b) Blessed examples of those who live according to the "THE WILL OF GOD" - Acts 5:17-42; 7:54-60; 16:16-34 (Matt 5:10-16- Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.)

II) IS OUR PROCLAMATION (v18-22)

(v18-20) Who are the spirits in prison? - Let's go back to Genesis Ch. 6 - "sons of God saw the daughters of men"- the sons of God, identified elsewhere almost exclusively as angels (Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7), saw and took wives of the human race. This produced an unnatural union which violated the God-ordained order of human marriage and procreation (Gen. 2:24). Some have argued that the sons of God were the sons of Seth who cohabited with the daughters of Cain; others suggest they were perhaps human kings wanting to build harems. But the passage puts strong emphasis on the angelic vs. human contrast. The NT places this account in sequence with other Genesis events and identifies it as involving fallen angels who indwelt men (2Peter 2:4,5; Jude 6). Matthew 22:30 does not necessarily negate the possibility that angels are capable of procreation, but just that they do not marry. To procreate physically, they had to possess human, male bodies. - **John MacArthur**

- **Let's also look at 2 Peter 2:4,5- "hell"- gk- Tartarus-** This is the prison of the fallen angels until the Great White Throne Judgment, from where they will be sent to eternal misery in the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:14).

- **Let's look at Jude 6,7- "angels who did not keep their proper domain (dignity)" - Word studies from Kenneth Wuest- "keep"- gk- tereo- "to guard."** The verb expresses the act of watchful care. That is, these angels did not fulfill their obligation of carefully guarding and maintaining their original position in which they were created, but transgressed those limits to invade territory which was foreign to them, namely, the human race. **"but left their own abode (heaven)" - Word studies from Kenneth Wuest- "left"- gk- apoleipo- means "to leave."** The prefixed preposition *apo* makes the compound verb mean **"to leave behind."** These angels left heaven behind. That is, they had abandoned heaven. They were done with it forever, a once and for all act. This was apostasy with a vengeance. They had, so to speak, burnt their bridges behind them, and had descended to a new sphere, the earth, and into a foreign relationship, that with the human race, foreign, because the latter belongs to a different category of created intelligences than they.

(v21-22) "baptism"- Peter is careful to inform his readers that he is not teaching baptismal regeneration, namely, that a person who submits to baptism is thereby regenerated, for he says, "not the putting away of the filth of the flesh." Baptism, Peter explains, does not wash away the filth of the flesh, either in a literal sense as a bath for the body, nor in a metaphorical sense as a cleansing for the soul. No ceremonies really affect the conscience. But he defines what he means by salvation, in the words "the answer of a good conscience toward God," and he explains how this is accomplished, namely "by the resurrection of Jesus Christ" in that the believing sinner is identified with Him in that resurrection. - **Word studies from Kenneth Wuest**

(Lessons from Noah- Hebrews 11:7; Jesus tells the future through Noah- Matthew 24:36-51)

➤ **Proclaim Jesus Personally! Proclaim Jesus Publicly! Proclaim Jesus Prophetically!**
(Lifestyle) (Witness) (Tell the World)