

SKY Correspondence Course

Lesson 12

We Are Partners With Christ

Lesson Text: 1 Peter 3:8–22

As followers of Jesus Christ we strive to live a godly way of life through His example. As Christians, we do not debate religion with others, we do not twist the arms of our friends into believing as we do, nor do we try to “convert” them in an antagonistic way. We do strive to be a light to the world by allowing our actions to speak for themselves. Jesus has taught us that the one who tries to love his neighbor as himself will win that neighbor’s love in return and may, according to God’s will, encourage that neighbor toward following Christ as he himself does.

These scriptures we are going to study in 1 Peter brings together a summary of what we have learned this past year about the standard Christ wants us to uphold. The qualities of a Christian life are positive. These qualities of Christian living comprise a life of giving as opposed to getting, of serving others instead of being served, of loving instead of selfishness, and of accomplishing and building instead of tearing down and destroying. These principles can be used by king or servant, rich or poor. It is the way naturally produced by God’s Holy Spirit. It is the way Jesus lived and acted. A Christian is one who follows Christ.

Christian Love

Read 1 Peter 3:8, 9—Peter begins with saying, “Finally.” He is going to sum it all up for us. Just as “love is the fulfillment of the law,” (Romans 13:8-10) so our relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ and our neighbors are fulfilled in love. Our minds should be unified. This does not mean that all Christians must be totally identical in personality, personal tastes, preferences, or procedures. We

do need to be united in *what* and *why*. When you show compassion, and a tender heart, and patience, you are showing love toward your brother and your neighbor.

It is of Satan and Satan’s world to return evil for good. On a human level, we can return good for good, or evil for evil. To be of the holy and divine character of God, we strive to return good for evil. This is not always easy to do, especially when you are the recipient of the evil.

Read 1 Peter 3:10-12—Peter turns to a quote from the Old Testament (Psalm 34:12–15) to explain and teach how we are to live a Christian life in an ungodly world.

- *Love life*—Our Creator wants us to have a full and abundant life. He wants us to find and reach our greatest personal potential and fulfillment. In God’s great love, has given man the guidelines for living a life which will ensure a full, abundant life and growth of godly character. We are to look for the best in every situation, face facts, and have faith that God is in control.
- *Control our tongue*—Many of the difficulties in life are brought about because we and unable to control our little tongue. “With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God’s likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be” (James 3:9–10, NIV). James also says, “If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless” (James 1:26).
- *Do good and hate evil*—Turning from sin is positive. Not only should we turn away from sin, but we must *despise* sin. We must recognize that sin brings us pain, shame. It causes

harm not only to ourselves but all those around us—those that love us. Sin destroys people’s lives—their homes, families, friendships, and health. Like the use of an illegal drug, sin seems fun and pleasurable, but its end result will alter our lives immeasurably.

• *Seek peace and pursue it*—Peace is the seed, and righteousness is the harvest. It is easy to find trouble. But it is hard work to achieve peace. Christ tells us, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God” (Matthew 5:9). We don’t seek peace at any price, but for *righteousness* sake (James 3:13–18). In other words to keep peace we do not sin. We continue to do what is right in the eyes of God. What do we do when our enemies do take advantage of us? Peter gives us comfort in these words: “For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

When life does not seem so good, turn to Psalm 34 and read the entire chapter. You can discover that life really *is* good and glorify God for the day.

The Lordship of Jesus Christ

Read 1 Peter 3:11–15—Who can harm you if you do what is right and good. It is better to follow God’s instructions or warnings than it is to fear what man will do to you. If you suffer for righteousness’ sake, don’t worry about it, God says you will be blessed. Peter encourages us as Christians to “be ready to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (1 Peter 3:15). We should be prepared and happy to answer questions about our beliefs when asked by an interested person. We are to “sanctify” the Lord in our hearts. This means we are to turn our life away from sin and live to obey and glorify Jesus in all that we do. One way to know if you sanctify Jesus in your heart is the way you give witness for Christ, and how it shows in your life.

A Good Conscience

Read 1 Peter 3:16,17—To have conscience means to have an awareness of right and wrong, impelling one to do what is right. As you study the Word of God and strive to live by it, you will develop a “good conscience” (Acts 24:16). When you have a good conscience, you will lose fear. “The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?” (Psalm 118:6). Your conscience will lead you to do good when God and Jesus Christ are your teachers. The

guidelines by which we live our lives are often not the standards of the world. When we live by these principles, we will often suffer ridicule and even hatred for doing good.

The Example of Christ

Read 1 Peter 3:18—Jesus was the “just” living a sinless life for the “unjust” in a dark and evil world (Acts 3:14). The light that Jesus offered provoked hatred and evil from those who were corrupt and unjust. Jesus suffered and died for these same people. He died for the sins of the world. Jesus suffered for doing good. Jesus did not fear what man would do to Him. He committed Himself completely to the will of God (1 Peter 2:23). Jesus died with a clear conscience. Jesus was then rewarded and blessed through the resurrection. When we decide to be baptized and follow Christ, we become partners with Christ.

Read 1 Peter 3:19,20—Peter uses the example of Noah and his family. During the one hundred and twenty years it took Noah to build the ark, he continued to warn and give a witness to the people. Noah did not fear men, but obeyed God. Peter drew the analogy between baptism and the flood—which only eight people were saved.

Read 1 Peter 3:21,22—The ceremony of baptism is not what gives us salvation. However, its rich symbolic meaning crosses the ages to remind us that baptism is an outward sign that the old man has died, and a new creature in Christ has begun. It symbolizes death, burial, and resurrection. It is our *belief* in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ which will lead us in the steps of Christ. The rite of baptism is another example of Christ that we follow.

Nothing could be accomplished, overcome, or saved by a dead Savior. It is the fact that Jesus Christ died, and three days and three nights later the *Spirit of God* brought Him out of the grave—He is ALIVE! The FACT of the resurrected Jesus Christ is what will bring *us* up from the grave, will bring us into the Kingdom of God, and will save us.

A verse worthy to remember:

“For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil”

1 Peter 3:12

SKY

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Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Province: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____

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Questions and Answers

1. We show that we are followers of Christ by:
 - A. What we say.
 - B. Where we attend church.
 - C. How we live.
2. As Christians, it is important to:
 - A. Debate religion with friends and family.
 - B. Pressure our friends and family into believing as we do.
 - C. Be a good example through our actions.
3. Jesus taught us to:
 - A. Condemn our neighbor.
 - B. Love our neighbor.
 - C. Avoid our neighbor.
4. True/False—God wants all Christians to be identical in personality, personal tastes, preferences, and procedures. _____
5. To return good for evil is _____ way.
6. What is meant by, "Sanctify the Lord in our hearts"?

7. Who was called "Just"
 - A. Peter
 - B. Jesus
 - C. Paul
8. In 1 Peter 2:23, who is it talking about? Explain what it means.

9. Having a conscience means:
- A. Knowing what is right and wrong.
 - B. Doing wrong and covering it up.
 - C. Being evil but not appearing so.

10. True/False— When you have a good conscience, you will not be afraid. _____

11. True/False—A person who follows their conscience cannot do evil. _____

12. What does it say in Psalm 118:6?

13. Who built the ark and had a clear conscience? Why did he have a clear conscience?

14. True/False—The ceremony of baptism gives us salvation. _____

15. True/False—God wants us to enjoy life. _____

16. Which chapter in the book of James deals with taming the tongue?

- A. Chapter 1
- B. Chapter 3
- C. Chapter 6

17. Not only should we turn away from sin, but we must also

- A. Despise sin.
- B. Embrace sin.
- C. Love sin.

18. Why should a person despise sin?

19. What is the meaning of baptism, and why do we need to be baptized?

20. The Christian life is fulfilled in:

- A. Learning, serving, giving, loving, and building.
- B. Deprivation, isolation, bad luck, and bad attitudes.
- C. Trouble, self-denial, persecution, and degradation.

Answers

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1. C
2. C
3. B
4. F
5. God's
6. To sanctify the Lord in our hearts means to turn away from sin and live to obey Jesus.
7. B
8. It is talking about Jesus. It means that Jesus completely committed himself to the will of God.
9. A
10. T
11. T
12. "The Lord is on my side; I will not fear what can man do to me?"
13. Noah built the ark with a clear conscience because he desired to obey God.
14. F
15. T
16. B
17. A
18. A person should despise sin because sin leads to unhappiness.
19. Baptism means repenting and realizing that Jesus is our savior. We need to be baptized so that we can come up in the resurrection and be partners with Christ.
20. A