**1 Peter: Bless and Inherit a Blessing**

1 Peter 3:9

**Context**

**1 Peter 3:8-12**—To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; **9**not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. **10**For, “The one who desires life, to love and see good days, Must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit. **11**“He must turn away from evil and do good; He must seek peace and pursue it. **12**“For the eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, And His ears attend to their prayer, But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

If we are desirous of living good days as Peter mentions (v**10**), then we must live and act in a way that is consistent with the calling by which God has called us. It does not surprise us that the world would say “living good days” is dramatically different. They do not have the capacity to understand spiritual truths and to distinguish the things that please God.

We have one of (if not the) best analogy in scripture of a man who had it all and sought to find good days in fleshly ways. It didn’t work. Wise is the person who hears and lives vicariously through his example and more importantly, heeds the words of Holy Scripture.

**Ecclesiastes 1:12-17**—I, the Preacher, have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. **13**And I set my mind to seek and explore by wisdom concerning all that has been done under heaven. It is a grievous task which God has given to the sons of men to be afflicted with. **14**I have seen all the works which have been done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and striving after wind. **15**What is crooked cannot be straightened and what is lacking cannot be counted. **16**I said to myself, “Behold, I have magnified and increased wisdom more than all who were over Jerusalem before me; and my mind has observed a wealth of wisdom and knowledge.” **17**And I set my mind to know wisdom and to know madness and folly; I realized that this also is striving after wind. **18**Because in much wisdom there is much grief, and increasing knowledge results in increasing pain.

Peter here exhorts us to have the right attitude as well as the right response to life situations so as to love and see good days.

**Bless—giving and receiving**

1. **Don’t retaliate**

**1 Peter 3:9**—not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.

1. Have the right way of thinking as well as the right response
2. Not returning evil for evil
   1. “Stop returning” evil for evil

**Leviticus 19:18**—You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord.

**Deuteronomy 32:35-36**—‘Vengeance is Mine, and retribution, In due time their foot will slip; For the day of their calamity is near, And the impending things are hastening upon them.’ **36**“For the Lord will vindicate His people, And will have compassion on His servants, When He sees that their strength is gone, And there is none remaining, bond or free.

**Proverbs 20:22**—Do not say, “I will repay evil”; Wait for the Lord, and He will save you.

**Romans 12:19**—Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.

**Hebrews 10:30**—For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge His people.”

* 1. Evil (kakos)—of a bad nature; not such as it ought to be; base, wrong, wicked[[1]](#footnote-1)
  2. Jesus’ use of the word

**Matthew 5:38-45a**—“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’ **39**But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. **40**If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. **41**Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two. **42**Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you. **43**“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ **44**But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, **45**so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven

* 1. Jesus is our example

**Luke 23:34a**—But Jesus was saying, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”

**Acts 7:60**—Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them!” Having said this, he fell asleep.

**Romans 12:14**—Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

**1 Thessalonians 5:15**—See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.

**1 Peter 2:21-23**—For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, **22**who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; **23**and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously

1. Insult for insult
   1. Insult (Ioidoria)—cursing, speaking evil of someone; slander or vituperation; railing, reviling; reproach[[2]](#footnote-2)

**1 Timothy 5:14**—Therefore, I want younger widows to get married, bear children, keep house, and give the enemy no occasion for reproach

* 1. It is never OK for believers to retaliate with insults

**Ephesians 4:29**—Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

**Colossians 3:8**—But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.

**Proverbs 4:24**—Put away from you a deceitful mouth And put devious speech far from you.

**Proverbs 19:1**—Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity Than he who is perverse in speech and is a fool.

**Ecclesiastes 5:6**—Do not let your speech cause you to sin and do not say in the presence of the messenger of God that it was a mistake. Why should God be angry on account of your voice and destroy the work of your hands?

* 1. Don’t even be connected with such a person

**1 Corinthians 5:11**—But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one.

* 1. Those who will not inherit the kingdom

**1 Corinthians 6:9-10**—Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, **10**nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

* 1. Paul’s occasion to revile and subsequent correction

**Acts 23:1-5**—Paul, looking intently at the Council, said, “Brethren, I have lived my life with a perfectly good conscience before God up to this day.” **2**The high priest Ananias commanded those standing beside him to strike him on the mouth. **3**Then Paul said to him, “God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! Do you sit to try me according to the Law, and in violation of the Law order me to be struck?” **4**But the bystanders said, “Do you revile God’s high priest?” **5**And Paul said, “I was not aware, brethren, that he was high priest; for it is written, ‘You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.’”

1. Instead, we bless

**9b** …but giving a blessing instead

**1 Corinthians 4:12**—and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure

* 1. Blessing (eulogeō)—eulogy; to praise, celebrate with praises; to invoke blessings[[3]](#footnote-3)

**Luke 1:42**—And she [Elizabeth] cried out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you [Mary] among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

* 1. How do we bless others?
     1. Unconditional love

**John 13:34**—A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

**John 15:12**—“This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.”

**Romans 12:9-10**—Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. **10**Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; [[j](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=rom%252012&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-28256j)]give preference to one another in honor

**Colossians 2:2**—that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God’s mystery, that is, Christ Himself

**1 Thessalonians 4:9**—Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another

**James 2:8**—If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well.

* + 1. Praying for them—either salvation or growth in Christ

**Matthew 5:11**—“Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.

**1 Timothy 2:1-4**—First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, **2**for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. **3**This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, **4**who desires all men to be saved and to come to the [knowledge of the truth.

* + 1. Expressing gratitude for them

**Romans 1:8**—First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world.

**1 Corinthians 1:4**—I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus

**Philippians 1:3-5**—I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, **4**always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, **5**in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now.

* + 1. Show forgiveness

**1 Peter 4:8**—Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

**Mark 11:25**—Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions.

**Luke 17:4**—And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ forgive him.”

**Colossians 3:13**—bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

**Matthew 18:21-35**—Then Peter came and said to Him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” **22**Jesus \*said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. **23**“For this reason the kingdom of heaven [[v](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matt%252018&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-23751v)]may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. **24**When he had begun to settle them, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. **25**But since he did not have the means to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. **26**So the slave fell to the ground and prostrated himself before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.’ **27**And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. **28**But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay back what you owe.’ **29**So his fellow slave fell to the ground and began to plead with him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you.’ **30**But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. **31**So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. **32**Then summoning him, his lord \*said to him, ‘You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. **33**Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?’ **34**And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. **35**My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.”

1. You were called for the very purpose

**9c.** …for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.

* 1. Inherit—freely receive; obtain by right of inheritance; to be an heir[[4]](#footnote-4)

God called us to inherit His infinite blessing; this impels us to bless others.[[5]](#footnote-5)

Let us, then not lose it as the unmerciful retainer lost his as recorded in Matthew18:32-34.[[6]](#footnote-6)

* 1. Blessing—same as above, here denoting the gift
  2. **The Point:** believers have received the divine, unmerited, and eternal blessing of complete forgiveness of an unpayable debt to a holy god and heavenly life forever with Him, rather than His deserved wrath and vengeance for sin.[[7]](#footnote-7)

**Matthew 1:21**—She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

**John 10:28**—and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

**Romans 5:8-9**—But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. **9**Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

**Romans 6:23**—For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Galatians 1:4**—who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father

**Ephesians 1:7**—In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

**Colossians 1:14**—in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

**Colossians 2:13-14**—When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, **14**having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

**1 Thessalonians 5:9**—For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ

**1 John 4:9-10**—By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. **10**In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

The importance of a forgiving spirit cannot be overemphasized. If we refuse to forgive others, we live in disobedience to the Lord. An unforgiving spirit disrupts our fellowship with God and destroys our joy. How incongruous that a Christian, who has experienced the Lord’s forgiveness of a mountain of sin and guilt, could be unforgiving in his attitude toward those who have wronged him. An unforgiving Christian is bound to be a miserable Christian.[[8]](#footnote-8)

**Conclusion**

The enormity of the weight that we no longer carry of sin is gone because of the free gift of grace God through Christ has given us. His atoning work on the cross paid for our sins. As such, Christians ought to be the most forgiving people on the planet.

**Luke 12:48**—but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few. From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.

**Matthew 10:8b**—…Freely you received, freely give.

**Source**

Most of the message and notes come from:

Richard W. DeHaan, Good News for Bad Times: 1 Peter

R.C.H. Lenski, The Interpretation of I and II Epistles of Peter, the three Epistles of John, and the Epistle of Jude

John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, 1 Peter

John MacArthur, Living and Loving the Good Life, Part 2, 1 Peter 3:9, Aug 27, 1989, gty.org

Jerome H Smith, The New Treasure of Scripture Knowledge

[www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org)

1. Strong’s 2556 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Strong’s G3059 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Strong’s G2127 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Strong’s G2816 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Lenski, 143. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Ibid, 144. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. MacArthur, 191. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. DeHaan, 88. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)