Three Great Benefits of Being a *Faithful* Christian

1 Peter 3:1-16

Introduction:
- Peter uses terms to describe the behavior of faithful Christian:
  1. “Good conduct in Christ”. (v.16).
  2. “Righteous” and “good” (v. 11-12)
- Peter in our text point out three great benefits of being faithful as Christians:

Discussion:

I. **The Approval of God. (vv. 12-13)**
- Means that our prayers are heard and answered. (Cf. John 9:31; Prov. 28:9).
- Means that we are “more than conquerors.” (Rom. 8:31-39)
- Means that we are abiding in the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9).
  1. Not doctrines of men (Mt. 15:9-13).
  2. Not what preacher, parents or peers say.

II. **The Ability to Lead Others to Christ (vv. 1-2).**
- Nothing more important than winning a soul. (Mk 8:36, 37; Rom. 9:3; 1 Cor. 9:19-24).
- Nothing more effective in winning a soul than day to day godliness. (v. 2).
  1. Wives best influence husbands by quite “chaste conduct.”
  2. Parent best bring up children up in the Lord when faithful themselves.
    a. Father can best restrain son by being good before him.
    b. Mother can best mold her daughter’s character by living example.
  3. Neighbor best gain a neighbor by being a neighbor.

III. **The Built in Answer to Unjust Criticism (vv. 15:16)**
- A godly live is the best defense against false criticism.
  1. Ill. Brother’s joke about another’s worldliness.
  2. There is no defense against just criticism.
  3. Can be so “straight-laced” that no person of good will believe critics. (Cf. Jay Johnson).
- A godly life will answer critics decisively in “day of visitation.” (1 Pet. 2:12).
- A godly life can only be lived “in Christ.” (v. 16; cf. 2 Tim.3:12)
  1. Those in Christ have believed (Gal. 3:26).
  2. Those in Christ have repented (Lk 13:3).
  3. Those in Christ have confessed Christ (Rom. 10:10).
  4. Those in Christ have been baptized (Gal. 3:26, 27; Rom. 6:4).
  5. Those in Christ are “new creatures.” (2 Cor. 5:17).

Conclusion: It pays to be faithful because of the effect can have on our:
- Personal relationship with God.
- Contacts in life.
- Our critics.
- Eternal destiny (Rev. 2:10).