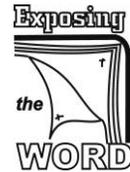


# “REMINDERS OF Truth” ©2009

## The Epistles of 1 & 2 Peter

BY DR. EDGAR PIERCE



### VII- Remember to Be Ready with an Answer: *1Pe 3:8-22*

I am reminded of the times children have when they ask what is often called the “Why” questions.

A first grader became curious because her father brought home a briefcase full of papers every evening. Her mother explained, 'Daddy has so much to do that he can't finish it all at the office. That's why he has to bring work home at night.' 'Well then,' asked the child innocently, 'why don't they put him in a slower group?'

The Bible teaches us that when our children ask questions that this is the time we should seize as a teachable moment because their mind is open to the answer. Notice a few of these.

**Deu 6:6-9** *These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. 7 Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be a symbol on your forehead. 9 Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

When the children would ask why about the things of Passover. **Exo 12:26-27** *And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say unto you, What mean ye by this service? 27 That ye shall say, It is the sacrifice of the LORD'S passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses. And the people bowed the head and worshipped.*

They were to set up a stone memorial after cross the Jordan River at the time of Joshua. **Jos 4:6** *That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones?*

Our focus this session if going to be on **1Pe 2:15** where it says *“be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you...”* Our remember to stand ready with an answer when the opportunity arise that someone's mind is open.

#### I- Preach Gospel Without Words:

The *Daily Study Bible* calls this the “Marks of a Christians Life.” St. Francis of Assisi said, “Preach

*the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words.”*

Paul said in **2Co 3:2** *Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men.*

*The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are read by more than a few,*

*But the one that is most read and commented on is the gospel according to you.*

*You are writing a gospel, a chapter each day*

*By the things that you do and the words that you say,*

*Men read what you write, whether faithless or true,*

*Say, what is the gospel according to you?*

*Do men read His truth and His love in your life,*

*Or has yours been too full of malice and strife?*

*Does your life speak of evil, or does it ring true?*

*Say, what is the gospel according to you?*

Arthur McPhee

Our lives should be lived in such a way that people will naturally be intrigued and ask what is different. Notice what Peter says in **1Pe 3:8** *Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: 9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. 10 For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:*

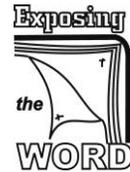
Jesus remember said in **Joh 13:34-35** *A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

Another thing that should make men take notice is the godliness of our lives. Our character should be a magnet as well. Peter reminds us in **1Pe 3:11** *Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. 12 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. 13 And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? 14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;*

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### II- Be Ready to Give an Answer

Have you ever been around someone who was confident and that you were confident in as well? I mean someone who when they spoke you automatically listened because they had the answer right more than not. How do men get this attribute? They get it from having education, experience and earned leadership. You know the old line of the ad said, “When EF Hutton speaks everybody listens.”

How can we have power on our testimony. Notice first it says in *1Pe 3:15* **But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts...**

Peter is quoting *Isa 8:13* **Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.**

*Barnes Notes* says, “The sense in the passage before us is, “In your hearts, or in the affections of the soul, regard the Lord God as holy, and act toward him with that confidence which a proper respect for one so great and so holy demands. In the midst of dangers, be not intimidated; dread not what man can do, but evince proper reliance on a holy God, and flee to him with the confidence which is due to one so glorious.”

The first item it is clear is that we have our heart right with God. *Wuest's Word Studies* gives us some addition insight here.

*The word "sanctify" is the translation of a Greek word meaning "to set apart." It was used in the pagan Greek religions of the act of setting apart a building as a temple, thus designating it as religious in character, to be used for religious purposes. The word "God" is a rejected reading and "Christ" appears in the best texts. The exhortation is to set apart Christ as Lord in the heart. The word "Lord" is the translation of kurios, here referring to Christ as the Jehovah of the Old Testament.*

Now once we have settled the question of Christ in our heart notice next that we should be according to *1Pe 3:15* **...and be ready always to give an answer...**

We might ask why this is important. Let me give us a lengthy story to try to emphasis why us being always ready to share our faith is important. Simply put we never know when the last day is for us or for those who we come in contact with.

Roger Simms, hitchhiking his way home, would never forget the date, May 7. His heavy suitcase made

Roger tired. He was anxious to take off his army uniform once and for all. Flashing the hitchhiking sigh to the oncoming car, he lost hope when he saw it was a black, sleek, new Cadillac. To his surprise the car stopped. The passenger door opened. He ran toward the car, tossed his suitcase in the back, and thanked the handsome, well-dressed man as he slid into the front seat. 'Going home for keeps?' 'Sure am,' Roger responded. 'Well, you're in luck if you're going to Chicago.' 'Not quite that far. Do you live in Chicago?' 'I have a business there. My name is Hanover.'

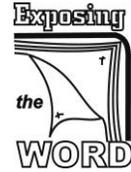
After talking about many things, Roger, a Christian, felt a compulsion to witness to this fiftyish, apparently successful businessman about Christ. But he kept putting it off, till he realized he was just thirty minutes from his home. It was now or never. So, Roger cleared his throat, 'Mr. Hanover, I would like to talk to you about something very important.' He then proceeded to explain the way of salvation, ultimately asking Mr. Hanover if he would like to receive Christ as his Savior. To Roger's astonishment the Cadillac pulled over to the side of the road. Roger thought he was going to be ejected from the car. But the businessman bowed his head and received Christ, then thanked Roger. 'This is the greatest thing that has ever happened to me.'

Five years went by, Roger married, had a two-year-old boy, and a business of his own. Packing his suitcase for a business trip to Chicago, he found the small, white business card Hanover had given him five years before. In Chicago he looked up Hanover Enterprises. A receptionist told him it was impossible to see Mr. Hanover, but he could see Mrs. Hanover. A little confused as to what was going on, he was ushered into a lovely office and found himself facing a keen-eyed woman in her fifties. She extended her hand. 'You knew my husband?' Roger told how her husband had given him a ride when hitchhiking home after the war. 'Can you tell me when that was?' 'It was May 7, five years ago, the day I was discharged from the army.' 'Anything special about that day?' Roger hesitated. Should he mention giving his witness? Since he had come so far, he might as well take the plunge. 'Mrs. Hanover, I explained the gospel. He pulled over to the side of the road and wept against the steering wheel. He gave his life to Christ that day.' Explosive

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sobs shook her body. Getting a grip on herself, she sobbed, 'I had prayed for my husband's salvation for years. I believed God would save him.' 'And,' said Roger, 'Where is your husband, Mrs. Hanover?' 'He's dead,' she wept, struggling with words. 'He was in a car crash after he let you out of the car. He never got home. You see, I thought God had not kept His promise.' Sobbing uncontrollably, she added, 'I stopped living for God five years ago because I thought He had not kept His word!' *Why Christians Sin*, J. Kirk Johnston, Discovery House, 1992, pp. 39-41

Always ready and may I say willing to give an answer. "Answer is our word *apology*, not in the popular sense of *excuse*, but in the more radical sense of *defense*." (*Vincent Word Studies*.)

In fact it is translated thusly in **Php 1:7** *Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.*

Peter is exhorting us to remember to be ready to give our answer regardless of what it might cost us. I have often wondered about my heart and if I would shout out the gospel even in the face of prison or death. When I read the following two short stories I thought would I stand and shout the gospel in face of this strong of a danger. Could I overcome the fear of men? I sure hope I would, I want to do so, but most of us would have to admit we do not simply know. I

*During his years as premier of the Soviet Union, Nikita Khrushchev denounced many of the policies and atrocities of Joseph Stalin. Once, as he censured Stalin in a public meeting, Khrushchev was interrupted by a shout from a heckler in the audience. 'You were one of Stalin's colleagues. Why didn't you stop him?'*

*'Who said that?' roared Khrushchev. An agonizing silence followed as nobody in the room dared move a muscle. Then Khrushchev replied quietly, 'Now you know why.' Today in the Word, July 13, 1993*

*John Huss, the Bohemian reformer, was burned at the stake in 1415. Before his accusers lit the fire, they placed on his head a crown of paper with painted devils on it. He answered this mockery by saying, 'My*

*Lord, Jesus Christ, for my sake, wore a crown of thorns; why should not I then, for His sake, wear this light crown, be it ever so ignominious? Truly I will do it willingly.'*

*After the wood was stacked up to Huss' neck, the Duke of Bavaria asked him to renounce his preaching. Trusting completely in God's Word, Huss replied, 'In the truth of the gospel which I preached, I die willingly and joyfully today.' The wood was ignited, and Huss died while singing, 'Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, have mercy on me.' - P.R.V. Our Daily Bread, March 7*

**1Pe 3:15** .... *to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you...* To everyone, now remember that some of these would be asks by those who would persecute them. Their testimony was to not just be given, nor ours either, in a convenient season but at any given time.

Peter calls the gospel of Christ an offense in his writings. **1Pe 2:8** *And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.* Many believers feel they have to come on so strong with the gospel that they project offence to the one they are trying to win. Peter tells us that our defense of the gospel, our argument of persuasion should be **1Pe 3:15** ...*with meekness and fear.*

Then we see that Peter reminds them again it is better to suffer for right than wrong. It is better to suffer for the gospel than to suffer for denying it.

**1Pe 2:16** *Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. 17 For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.*

Are we ready to give our answer? Have we settled the Christ into our heart so strong that we know He is the Messiah so strong that we would be willing to die before we renounced Christ? I pray so, I pray so!