

FIRST PETER

Part 82

"Loving Life"

**Presented by Pastor Ron Schafer
January 23, 2005**

You would think that everyone on earth has a desire "to love life and see good days." After all, as humans, we are programmed to make the most of these days on earth, right?

Well, not exactly. Peter states that only believers can truly love life. As a child of the Living God, we have a completely different perspective. As a result of the indwelling Holy Spirit, we see things so differently than the rest of humanity.

Salvation brings new desires and purpose. Peter has already stated in verse 9 of Chapter 3 that we are called "*to inherit a blessing.*" But what are the conditions? How does all of this work?

A QUOTATION FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS

I Peter 3:10-12

- There are **many** similarities as the author quotes Psalm 34:12-16.
- There are **some** distinct differences however.
 - The life and good days mentioned in Psalm 34:12 are a reference to:
 1. A long **physical** life
 2. A **life** of prosperity on earth
 - The life and good days that are mentioned in I Peter 3:10 are a reference to:
 1. **Eternal** life and all that will be in the future
 2. Future days that are good because we are with our **Savior**
- The Psalmist **contrasts** the believing righteous with the unbeliever who faces the **wrath** of God's judgment. (*Psalm 34:16*)
- Peter specifically contrasts two **conditions** in a believer's life; one who is obedient and a disobedient believer. (*I Peter 3:12*)

THE MOTIVATION OF BOTH AUTHORS

Psalm 34:12-18; I Peter 3:10-12

- Our loving Heavenly Father is carefully watching our **lives**.
 - Psalm 34:15 = The righteous are the **objects** of His eyesight.
 - I Peter 3:12 = The eyes of the Lord are directed **favorably** toward those who are righteous.
- Our loving Heavenly Father is “tuned into” our prayers.
 - Psalm 34:15 = His ears are **open** to the prayers of the righteous
 - I Peter 3:12 = God’s ears are “**into**” the prayers of the righteous

In other words, our Heavenly Father is continually **watching us and **listening** to us as we live our lives.**

- He is **always** available to us as we obey Him.
- But there is a **negative** aspect to His sovereign watchcare.
 - Psalm 34:16 = The Father **reacts** to those who are rebellious in unbelief.
 - I Peter 3:12 = The Father reacts differently to rebellious **believers**.

- Peter uses the statements in Psalm 34 to enforce the concept of our Heavenly Father's **attention** to our behavior.
- God the Father is paying careful attention to every **detail** of a righteous person's life so He might **hear** and **answer** their prayers.
- The rebellious believer then has no **prayer** privileges!
- Our motivation to be obedient to Scripture is "**answered prayer**."
- We desperately need our Heavenly Father to **hear** our prayers and to **answer** them also. (*Psalm 34:17*)
- So we must obey the **conditions** that please Him. (*1 Peter 3:10-11*)

FINAL THOUGHTS

- Our Great God saved us so that we might **love** life and **see** good days.
- He also has a great desire that we obey Him and have an effective **prayer** life!

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. Is it important to you that God sees you as an obedient child?
2. Are you really convinced that your rebellious behavior does affect your relationship with Christ?
3. What will it take for you to think more biblically about prayer?