

**1 Peter 3:11-17**

*“Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. 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.” And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed. “And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.” But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.”*

**A Shadow Cast**

I'm sure most people at one time or another have played shadow games. In doing so, one quickly learns that the closer you get to the source of light, the larger the image of the shadow. When compared to the Christian life, this law of light also holds true.

The Bible tells us that "God is light" (1 John 1:5), this refers to the absolute purity of God. Christians are exhorted to "draw near to God" (James 4:8). This is done through prayer and meditation upon God's Word as we open our hearts and minds to God's examination and leading through "daily quiet time."

The Psalmist expresses this devotion to meditation in the first Psalm: "Blessed [is] the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight [is] in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night." (Psalms 1:1-2). This word "meditate" is the translation of the Hebrew word "הִתְהַלֵּךְ", (pronounced "daw-gaw") and suggests the continual plotting of plans within a persons heart with such intensity that quiet murmuring to oneself is the result. Meditation on God's Word is a discipline that involves the mind and heart in deep interaction with the truth.

This time alone with the Lord was so important to Daniel that he risked his own life to maintain it (Daniel 6), the Bereans were given the distinction by the apostle Paul of being more noble because they searched the scriptures every day (Acts 17), even Jesus who was God incarnate began each day in prayerful communion with his Father in heaven (Mark 1:35).

As the believer "draws close" to the revealed truth regarding God's holiness, purity, righteousness, justice and love, our likeness of Him increases. Christ's attitudes, actions, compassion and love penetrate more of our daily lives. This greater Christlikeness in turn, has a affect on those around us.

Dear Believer, how great an image of Christ does your life cast? Are you "drawing close to God" and affecting those around you. Won't you determine to follow Peter's exhortation to "Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, and be ready to give an answer about the reason for your hope." (1 Peter 3:15)

Will you, with the hymn writer say "Let the Beauty of Jesus be seen in me, all his wonderful love and purity." Commit today to a regular time of daily Bible study and prayer and grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*What is my response:*

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