

Sermon Notes – January 15, 2017

Review:

- ⇒ We are _____ in a foreign land – but we are _____ to an inheritance, a living _____ more precious than gold, kept in heaven for us!
- ⇒ We are living _____ who have been rejected by the world but are being built into a spiritual _____, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ!
- ⇒ We are a chosen _____, a royal _____, and a holy _____ chosen to proclaim Christ!

Today's Text: 1 Peter 3:8-17

Today's text calls us, as exiles, as living stones, as God's own people, to be a distinctive people in the land of our exile. We must be ready with our words, our actions, and our love to proclaim the hope we have through Christ.

Christian Exiles must reflect the culture of their homeland.

- ⇒ Christian exiles must be _____.
- ⇒ Christian exiles must _____ one another.
- ⇒ Christian exiles must display _____ characteristics of a better kingdom.

As heirs to a blessing, Christian Exiles must be a blessing.

- ⇒ Christian exiles cannot repay _____ for _____.
- ⇒ Christian exiles are destined to inherit a _____; therefore they must be a blessing.
- ⇒ Christian exiles must not forget that their Lord is _____!

1 Peter 3:8-17
Matthew Richey
Joyful Suffering Is Built on Future Hope

Christian Exiles living as citizens of a better kingdom have nothing of which to be afraid.

- ⇒ Under normal circumstances, _____ is its own reward.
- ⇒ Even if we suffer for our righteous conduct, our _____ outweighs our current suffering.
- ⇒ If we are to suffer, it should only be for doing _____. If we experience this kind of suffering, we have nothing to be afraid of!

Apologetic Focus: Are you ready to give an answer?

- ⇒ To be ready to give an answer for the hope that is in you, your hope must be _____!
- ⇒ An effective answer is given with _____ and _____.
- ⇒ There is no better apologetic than a life _____!

Responding to God's Word:

- ⇒ Can others truly see a difference between the world and us? Do we love better? Do we exhibit distinctive virtuous behavior?
- ⇒ Do we seek retaliation for wrongs, tolerate wrongs, or bless wrongdoers?
- ⇒ As a part of our experience as Christian exiles, there are three broad categories of suffering. It can be helpful, when suffering, to differentiate them:
 - Some suffering is a result of living in a _____ and cannot be avoided until Creation is restored to its original glory.
 - Some suffering is a result of our own _____ and can and should be avoided.
 - Some suffering is a result of _____. This kind of _____ should not be avoided but embraced. It need not be feared, but provides us with an opportunity to better identify with Christ.