

## 1 Peter 3:8 – 17

New American Standard Bible (NASB 1995))

1 2:13 Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human  
2 institution, ...  
3 ...  
4 2:18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all  
5 respect ...  
6 ...  
7 3:1 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own  
8 husbands ...  
9 ...  
10 3:7 You husbands in the same way, live with *your wives* in  
11 an understanding way, ...  
12 8 To sum up, all of you **be harmonious**, sympathetic,  
13 brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; 9 not returning  
14 evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing  
15 instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you  
16 might inherit a blessing. 10 For,  
17 “The one who desires life, to love and see good days,  
18 Must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from  
19 speaking deceit.  
20 11 “He must turn away from evil and do good;  
21 He must seek peace and pursue it.  
22 12 “For the eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous,  
23 And His ears attend to their prayer,  
24 But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”  
25 [Psalm 34:12-16]  
26 13 Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what  
27 is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for the sake of  
28 righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their  
29 intimidation, and do not be troubled, 15 but sanctify Christ  
30 as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a  
31 defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for  
32 the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;  
33 16 and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which  
34 you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in  
35 Christ will be put to shame. 17 For it is better, if God  
36 should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right  
37 rather than for doing what is wrong.

**Use the excerpts from the previous passage as context for this section.**

### **Observation (What does it say?):**

Consider the observation questions on the back of this page. What do you notice in this passage?

- **Circle** the attitudes and actions Peter calls his readers to follow.
- What else do you observe in this passage?

### **Interpretation (What does it mean?):**

After observing the passage:

- Do the attitudes and actions seem like burdens and obligations? Why or why not?
- Why did Peter include the quotation from Psalms? How does it fit his “summing up”?
- How do you understand the psalm about the eyes, ears, and face of the Lord? Why the distinctions?
- Besides v. 9b, what else does Peter say about God’s call on us? (1:15; 2:9, 21; 5:10) How does v. 9 fit with those verses?
- What questions come to mind as you read?

### **Application (What does it mean for me?):**

- How often do people ask about the hope that is in you?
- What defense can you give for the hope that is in you?
- How might this passage affect your understanding of who God is and what He is doing?

**Observation** – *What does it say?*      **Interpretation** – *What does it mean?*      **Application** – *What does it mean for me?*

**For additional thought and discussion:**

Now the LORD said to Abram,  
“Go forth from your country,  
And from your relatives  
And from your father’s house,  
To the land which I will show you;  
<sup>2</sup> And I will make you a great nation,  
And I will bless you,

And make your name great;  
And so you shall be a blessing;  
<sup>3</sup> And I will bless those who bless you,  
And the one who curses you I will curse.  
And in you all the families of the earth will be  
blessed.”  
**Genesis 12:1-3**

For more suggested methods of study: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/methodical-bible-study/>

For examples of inductive studies: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/inductive-bible-study-examples-2/>

## Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

### **Observation** (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer’s thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

### **Interpretation** (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer’s thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

### **Application** (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures,  
but draw everything from them,  
and suffer nothing to remain  
hidden that is really in them.  
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**

For a much more detailed description of the methodology, see Robert A. Traina, *Methodical Bible Study*. Wilmore, Kentucky: Asbury Theological Seminary, 1952.