



1. Cultivate Love in anticipation of God's blessing v8-12

- Show what God has shown to you – Harmony, sympathy, love, compassion, humility
- Refuse to get sucked in – guard your speech, pursue peace, be a blessing
- Look for God's blessing not people's – a present and future blessing

2. Cultivate Fear of God to free you from other fears v13-17

- Life is made harder by fear: Fear of people – humiliation, rejection, attack. Fear of circumstances – recession, illness etc.
- Christians don't need to have these fears. The solution is to fear God (cf. Isaiah 8:12,13). Fear of God ≠ terror. Fear of God = awe and worship.
- To put Christ in his rightful place in our thinking frees us from fear of people and circumstances. He is Lord of all things, and works them all for the good of his people.

a) Awe-fear produces freedom

- Christ's opinion/acceptance frees us from seeking others opinion/acceptance
- Knowing Christ is in control frees us from fear of circumstances

b) Awe-fear produces opportunities to talk about our hope

- When people see our lives are shaped by another reality, they will ask and we can explain about how a real relationship with God changes everything.
- The key to sharing our faith is not *first* getting the right words, but *first* living the right way – with Christ as King over everything.

c) Awe-fear produces godly attitudes and actions

- Fearlessness ≠ self-confident pride.
- Produces gentleness, respect and a clear conscience v15,16
- Our aim is to win people not arguments. People are not the enemy.

3. Cultivate confidence because Christ has already triumphed v18-22

- v19-21 – one of the trickiest New Testament passages, but the main truths are clear
- Here is why the Christian has confidence:

a) Christ has triumphed over sin v18

- All is done that is needed to bring you safely home

b) Christ has triumphed over death v18b, 22

- Suffering is followed by glory. Suffering is not the end.

c) Christ's people are part of his triumph despite hardships and small numbers v19-22

- v19 – Possibly means that when Noah was preaching, Jesus was preaching



Notices

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| Sunday | Evening service in Milford | 8pm |
| Tuesday | No Bible Study | |
| Wed 16th | Morning Bible Study - at Eithne's The Art of Living - chapter 1 Pick up a copy of the study Book on Proverbs - €3.50 | 10.30am |
| Wed 16th | Prayer time for Donegal Christians Lecture hall below Letterkenny Prsbyterian Church | 8pm |
| Sun 20th | Sermon on I Peter 4:1-11 | 10.15am |
| Thur 24th | Public Meeting: Angels - Myth or Messengers Rev Raymond Blair Gallagher's Hotel | 8pm |

sermon notes continued:

through him. Jesus is closely involved in the lives of his people. And his people are closely involved in his.

- v20 – Numbers don't mean everything. The few on the ark were part of the salvation of God
- v21 – As the waters of the flood were a sign of a new world to Noah, so the waters of your baptism are a guarantee of your place in God's new world.