

The St. Peter Option: To Everyone an Answer Living as Exiles in a Foreign Land

1 Peter, 2 Peter, Christian Vocation, and the Table of Duties

5 Christ Is the Only Light that Overcomes the Darkness

We will discuss the theses: “Christ is the only Light that overcomes the darkness” of this world by doing a bit of exegesis on 1 Peter 2:9; 2 Peter 1:19; 1 Peter 3:15; and Acts 5:20. Several theses follow each set of texts. In some instances, there is a comparison between the NKJV and the ESV translations.

1 PETER 2:9

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light, who once were not a people but are not the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.” NKJV

1. The mercy of God in Christ is what creates the Church and constitutes her as the unique people of God.
2. The proclamation of the Church and every Christian is broader than preaching, teaching, or even speaking, but includes the very life of goodness and mercy that is lived toward a hostile world.
3. “Excellencies of Him” or “praises of Him” refers to the goodness and virtue of a life lived from the mercy of God toward a world that is hostile to this goodness.

2 PETER 1:19

“For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” ¹⁸ we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” **ESV**

1. The Father’s delight in His beloved Son at the Transfiguration was a testimony to Jesus’ total and complete willingness to lay down His life in the self-giving sacrificial love for sinful humanity.
2. The prophetic Word of God was fully confirmed in the life, death, and resurrection of the Christ to which the apostles were eyewitnesses.
3. The prophetic and apostolic Scriptures are the “lamp” that shines forth Christ who is the light of the world.

1 PETER 3:15—TO EVERYONE AN ANSWER

“But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better

to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered¹⁸ once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit..." **ESV**

"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..." **NKJV**

1. "To suffer for righteousness' sake" is based upon Jesus' promise in the Sermon on the Mount.
2. "To suffer for righteousness' sake" is to suffer for Christ's sake.
3. The "answer" to the darkness of this world is Christ. Therefore, every defense of our faith, of truth, of the goodness of creation, of marriage, of family, of race, etc. **MUST** be anchored in Christ.
4. The ordinary life we live as Christians flows from the call of the Gospel of Christ and our faith in God's mercy Jesus which made us His people.
5. Our lives bear witness to Jesus Christ in everything we do and say.
6. We are called to be prepared to give an answer, a defense, for the hope that is within us.

TO EVERYONE AN ANSWER:

1 Peter 3:15 "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..."

- The Word of the Lord Jesus, received in our hearts, is that Word by which we are sanctified, set apart, declared, and made holy to confess Christ in the lives that we live and in the witness that we give to others concerning why we live the way we do and why it is so important to us and for those who do not know Christ.

Acts 5:20

"Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, 'Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.'"

We want others to receive this Life—this Christ—too. **"This life..."** Acts 5:20 – Peter is told by the angel to stand in the temple and **"speak all the words of this life..."**

1. We must know the Gospel, we must know the Law that is fulfilled in Christ, we must know how every aspect of our lives and creation finds its identity, meaning, purpose, and significance in Christ if we are to "proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light" by the lives we live.
2. Christ is "this life" that saves us; "this life" that we preach; "this life" that we live; and "this life" that we confess.
3. The ordinary Christian cannot be "an expert" at the darkness, but we can know and receive the Light