

BLESSED HOPE

BHBC



BIBLE CHURCH

**Learning of Christ, Loving in Christ, Leaning on Christ, Living for Christ, Leading to Christ
Based on the Word of God**

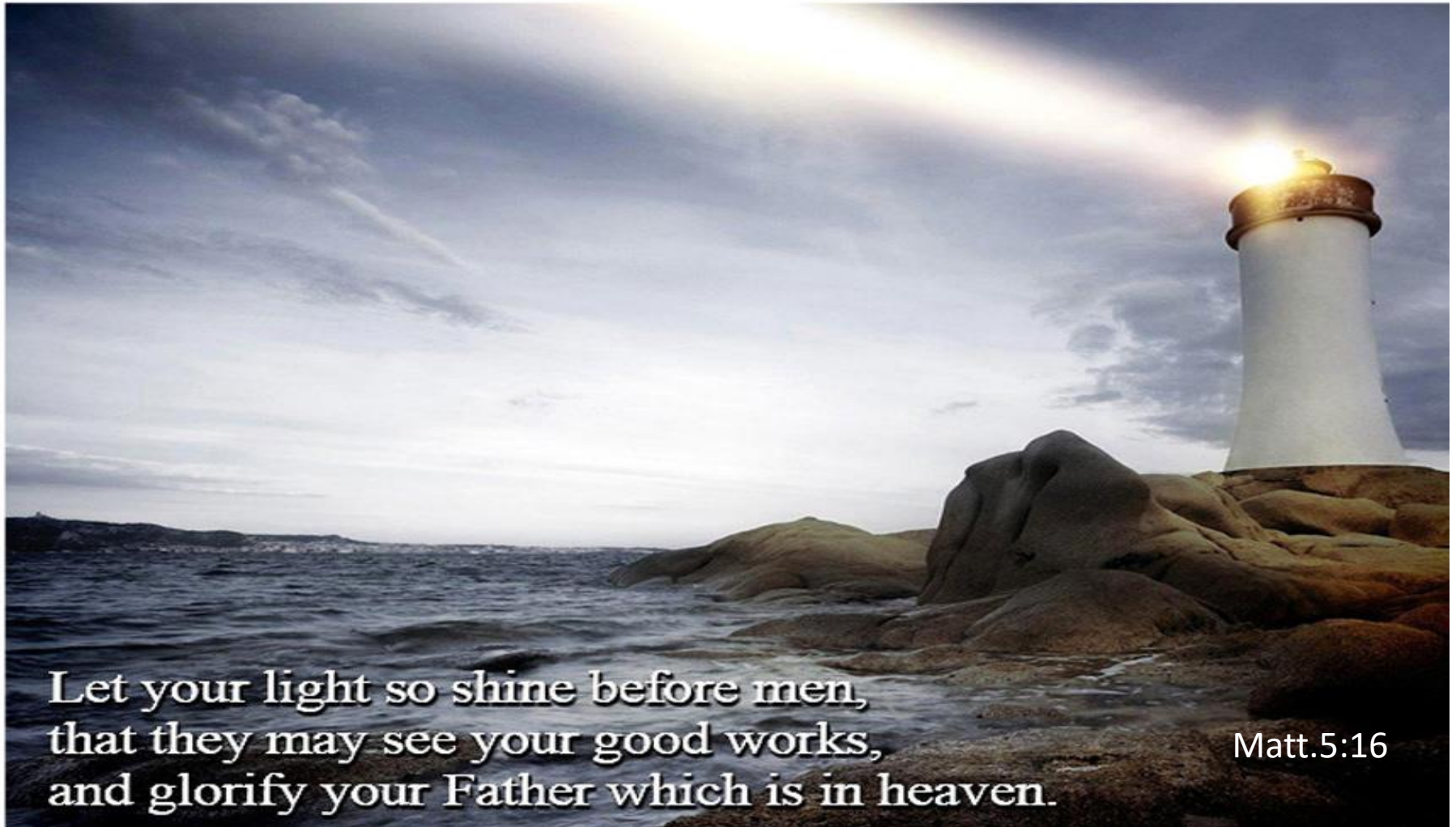
1 PETER

LIVING FOR THE
LORD IN BAD TIMES



HONORABLE CONDUCT

1PETER 2:9-12



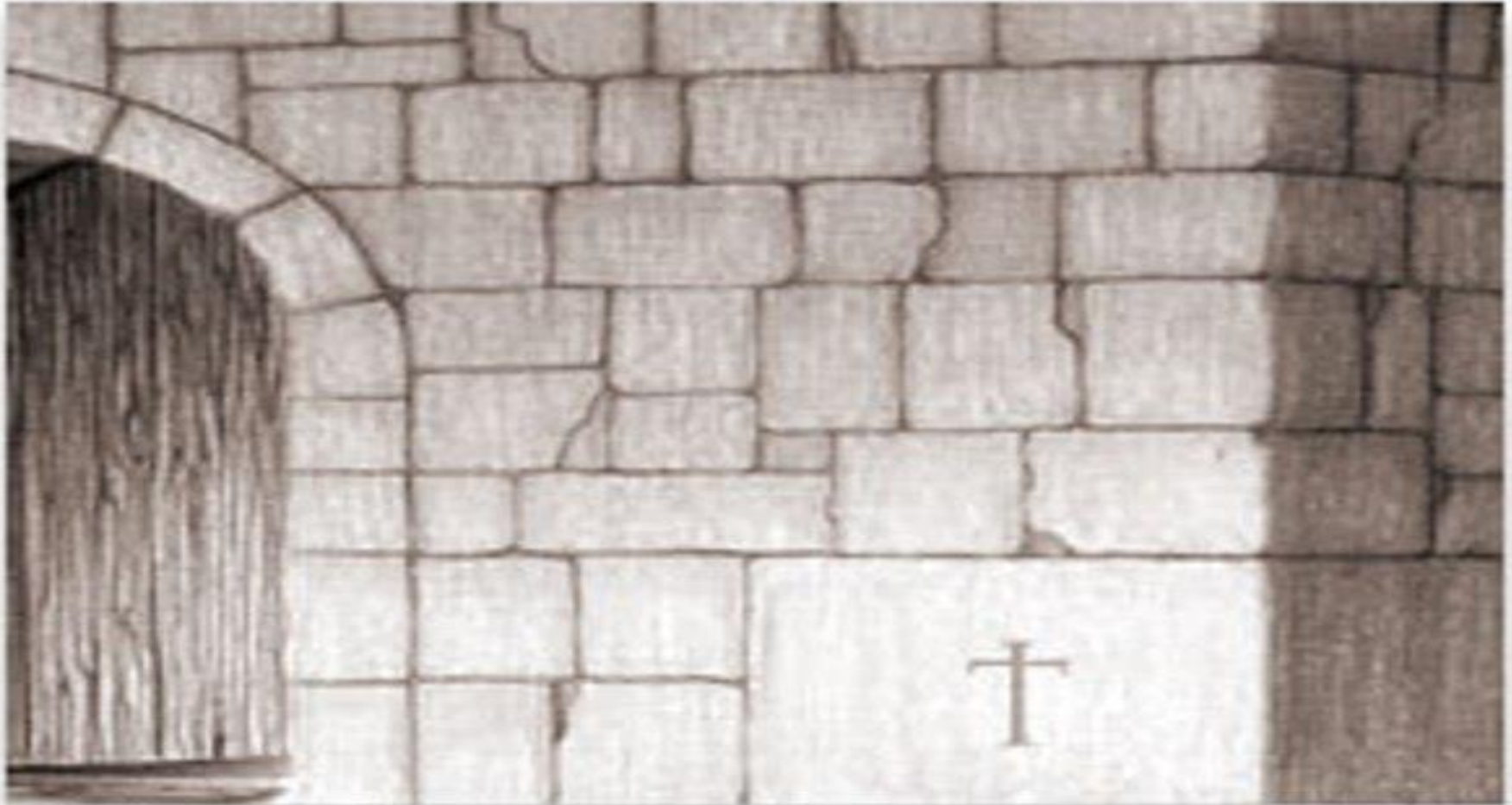
Let your light so shine before men,
that they may see your good works,
and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matt.5:16

- **THE CONTEXT:** The basic theme of 1 Peter is the proper response of a believer in Christ in times of suffering and difficulties.
- **THE PARADOX:** All of us will face various kinds of difficulties and problems in life, however, the problem is NOT the difficulties we face BUT how we respond to difficult situations.
- **THE PRINCIPLE:** The believer in Christ has the anticipation of a eternal inheritance that gives strength, encouragement and hope even in the most difficult times. In light of this, God wants the believer to be holy in all his conduct.

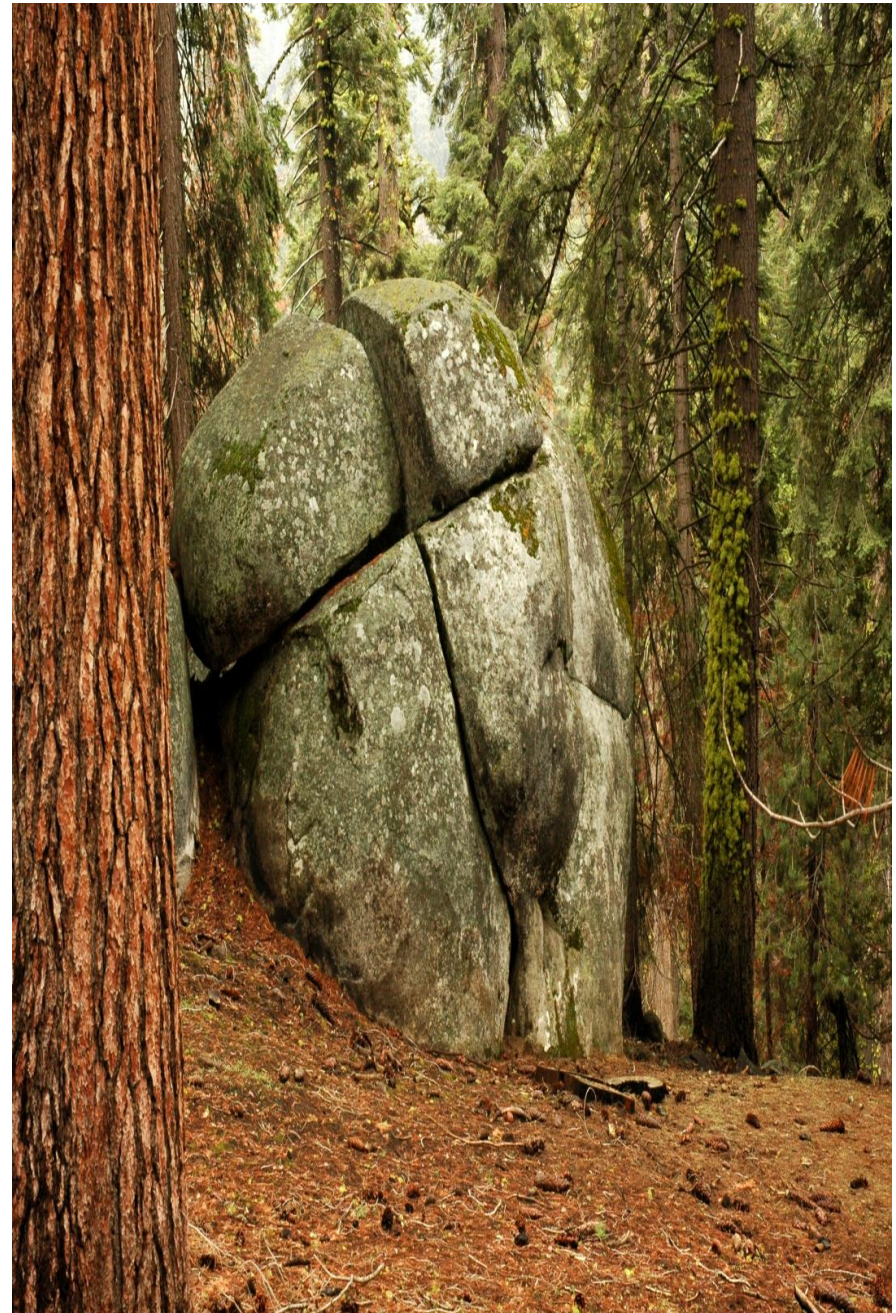
- **THE PRACTICALITY:** To be holy in all conduct **includes:**
 - Conducting yourself throughout the time of your stay here in fear (i.e., the fear of the Lord)
 - Loving one another fervently with a pure heart
 - Desiring the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.
 - Offering up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ, due to the fact that we are living stones, being built up by the Living Stone as a spiritual house, a holy priesthood.
 - Abstaining from fleshly lusts with conduct that is honorable among the Gentiles (unsaved).
- **Lesson:** Because of what happen to us (we were born again), and because of what we are (we are living stones being built up as a spiritual house, a holy priesthood), **all believers are to conduct themselves honorably among the unsaved world.**
- From 1Peter 2:4-8 we will look at **two prerequisites** that should encourage believers to conduct themselves honorably among the unsaved.

PREREQUISITE #1: REMEMBER WHAT WE HAVE BECOME



- **For the disobedient (i.e., unbeliever), Jesus is a “Stone” of Judgment.**

- All who reject Jesus will face Him, the Chief Cornerstone, as their Judge (e.g., because they are out of sync with not only the Cornerstone, but with the design, plans, purpose and ultimate destiny of the Architect’s building)





- Those who reject Jesus are destined for a stumbling (e.g., a trip and fall) which will lead to eternal condemnation
- Thus, rejecting the “Stone” has a very serious and eternal consequence!!

- **For the believer, Jesus is a “Stone” of Joy.**

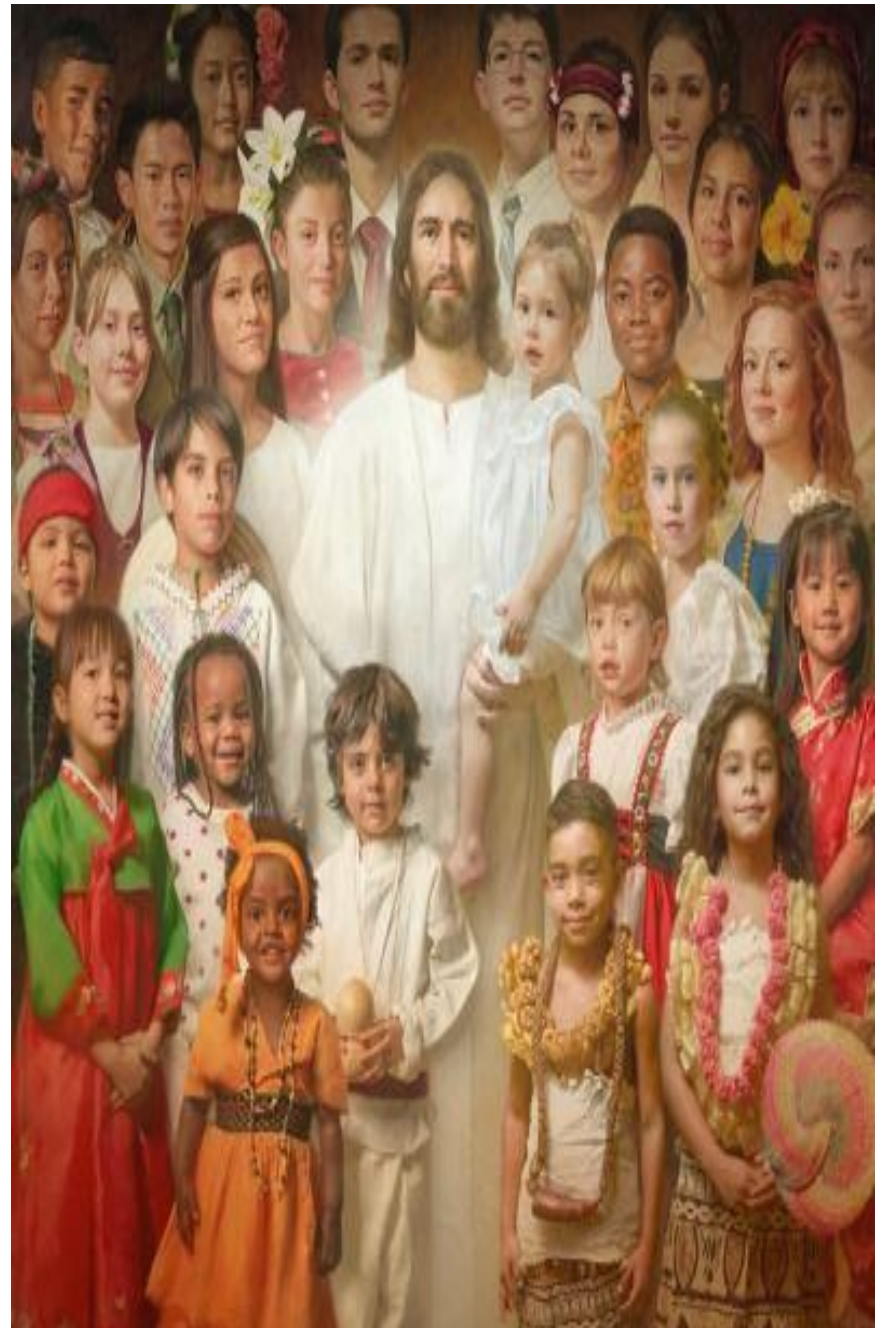
- **Remember:** Jesus is a living stone, chosen by God and precious, regardless of whether or not He is rejected by men.
- As a precious stone, Jesus has made the believer precious in the sight of God!





- Believers are a **chosen generation**—the Lord has preference for the believer as a special treasure over and above all people on the earth.
- Believers are a **royal priesthood**—believers have the privilege of not only coming to the Lord without the use of a human intermediary or ritual, but they also have the dignity and honor of one day ruling and reigning with Christ.

- Believers are a **holy nation**—not a separate political nation within a nation, but a people who belong to God, set apart from the rest of mankind with a citizenship in heaven.
- Believers are God’s own **special people**—all peoples belong to God by right of creation, but believers are highly esteemed and beloved on a level that is distinct from all mankind





- **Special Note:** These characteristics were used to identify the children of Israel in the O.T. (cf., Ex.19:5-6; Deut.7:6).
 - The children of Israel were to be a distinct people for God's use with a distinct relationship, belief, and way of life.
 - Like the covenant people of God, the redeemed people of God in Christ have that same distinction from the rest of the world

- **The believer's precious position, privileges, and future prospect is the incentive for proclaiming praise to God.**





- This is because God called the believer out of darkness into His marvelous light.
- This is because believers were once not a people, but are now the people of God.
- This is because believers had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy

PREREQUISITE #2

RECOGNIZE HOW WE ARE TO BEHAVE



- **The Exhortation:
Abstain from
Fleshly Lust.**
 - **The Urgency:** I beg you—this implies a strong insistence.



**HEAR NO EVIL. SEE NO
EVIL. SPEAK NO EVIL.**



- **The Basis:** The position of the believer in this world.
- Believers are “beloved” because they are God’s children through faith.
 - Believers are “sojourners” (i.e., strangers) and “pilgrims” because their permanent citizenship is in heaven.

– **The Fact:** Fleshly lust war against the soul, i.e., the desires of the sinful flesh always goes contrary to the Spirit within the believer, hindering spiritual growth and producing a poor testimony before the world.





- **The Explanation:
Having Your
Conduct Honorable
Among the
Gentiles.**
 - **Note:** The unsaved world is watching the lives of believers—what they believe, how they live, and how they react to circumstances

– **Note:** The unsaved world, in order to justify its ungodly lifestyle, will speak against the believer as an evildoer.

- Intolerant
- Homophobic
- Ignorant
- Chauvinistic
- Narrow minded
- Exclusive
- Bigoted





– **Note:** The conduct of the believer should be so morally honorable that the unbeliever will be forced to admit that the good works of the believer were admirable and respectful.

- No unbeliever should be able to accuse a believer of being immoral or dishonest
- The unsaved should see in the life of a believer good works of kindness, compassion, and sympathy.

A CHALLENGE FOR YOU

- Are you conducting yourself honorably among the unsaved?

**Let your light so
shine before men,
*that they may see
your good works,*
and glorify your
Father which is
in heaven.**

MATTHEW 5:16



RECEIVE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR
SAVIOUR TODAY!!



- 1. Acknowledge** that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, **died** on the cross for your sin, and that He **arose** again from the dead on the third day.
- 2. Admit** that you are a sinner, **guilty** of sin and **responsible** and **accountable** to a holy God for your sin, and that you are under His just condemnation and eternal punishment for your sin.
- 3. Accept** the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour by **receiving** His provision of salvation through your faith in Him alone.