

# EXCELLING IN OUR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER

## Lesson 18 - Band of Brothers (1 Peter 4: 1-10)

### 1. ARM YOURSELF WITH THE ATTITUDE OF CHRIST.

*Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of man, but for the will of God.* 1 Peter 4: 1-2

- Like Christ be willing to SUFFER to bring the lost to God.
- Like Christ realize my response to suffering provides my greatest opportunity to reveal the SURPASSING VALUE of knowing God to a lost world.
- Like Christ be motivated by the fact that although suffering for God is INESCAPABLE the reward from God will be INDESCRIBABLE.

Bottom line for a soldier, the completion of the mission comes first no matter the cost. The apostle Paul expressed this very sentiment.

*But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus--the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.* Acts 20: 24 (NLT)

### 2. DON'T BE SURPRISED BY THE ATTACKS OF THE WORLD.

*For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lust, drunkenness, carousals, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.* 1 Peter 4: 3

*And in all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excess of dissipation, and they malign you...Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you.*

1 Peter 4: 4 with 1 Peter 4: 12

*...but they shall give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.* 1 Peter 4: 5

### **3. BE ASSURED FINAL VICTORY IS CERTAIN!**

*The end of all things is at hand;* 1 Peter 4: 7a

*The kingdom of the world have become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.* Revelation 11: 15

What happens when Christ returns? He wins! This is why in God's army there is no place for pessimism. The end of the game is fixed, the final outcome certain, & we are on the WINNING SIDE! When we see Jesus it will be worth every sacrifice & struggle, every difficulty & disappointment, every pain & perplexity.

*For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.* Romans 8: 18

### **4. STAY CALM IN THE BATTLE.**

*...therefore, be of sound judgment,* 1 Peter 4: 7b

### **5. RELY ON THE POWER OF PRAYER.**

*...and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.* 1 Peter 4: 7c

*For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places...Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.* Ephesians 6: 12 & 18

### **6. HAVE THE BACK OF YOUR FELLOW SOLDIERS.**

*Above all, KEEP FERVENT IN YOUR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER, because love covers a multitude of sins.* 1 Peter 4: 8

### **7. PROVIDE COVER FOR YOUR FELLOW SOLDIERS.**

*BE HOSPITABLE TO ONE ANOTHER without complaint.* 1 Peter 4: 9

### **8. KNOW YOUR ROLE AND FULFILL IT.**

*As each one has received a special gift, employ it in SERVING ONE ANOTHER, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.* 1 Peter 4: 10