

The Godly Pursuit of the Good Life

1 Peter 3:13-17



1 Peter: Holy Living in a Hostile Land

We live as **Christ's blessing** to our fellow **Christians** as we are harmonious (like-minded about life and truth), sympathetic (compassionately caring and considerate), tenderhearted (eager to be helpful and encouraging), humble-minded (putting others' interests ahead of our own) and, finally, fervently expressing brotherly love.

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- “Zealous”: from *zelotes*. A **zealot** is entirely devoted or passionately committed to something.

For you to *prove zealous for what is good* means you are enthusiastically living in a passionate commitment to God and to what He has told you is good for you.

*“Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”
(Galatians 6:9-10)*

*“But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good.”
(2 Thessalonians 3:13)*

“Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.” (Titus 3:14)

*“See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.”
(1 Thessalonians 5:15)*

In verses 14-16 Peter gives us **three directives** aimed at keeping our hearts **zealously committed** to doing God's good and for **fighting our fears** that pull us into ourselves and away from others.

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What he means is that you are seeing the **proof** of being **favored by God**, and this should give you encouragement.

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“You are not to say, ‘It is a conspiracy!’ In regard to all that this people call a conspiracy, and you are not to fear what they fear or be in dread of it.”

Isaiah 8:12

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The Lord promised Joshua that He would always be faithful to him, never forsake Joshua, never fail him, and God promised to be with him wherever he went. God's presence and support will always be with you as you do His will.

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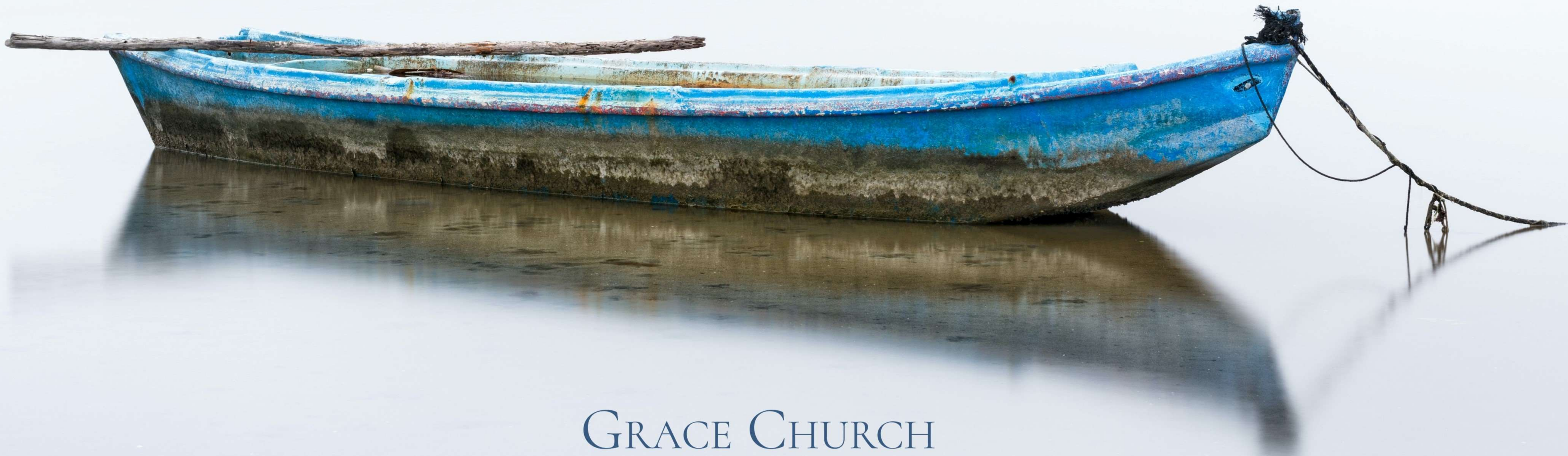
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“Joshua will not succeed because he obeys God's instruction; he will succeed because God is with him to enable him to obey God's instruction.” (*Richard Hess*)

I. **Trust the Character of Christ (1 Peter 3:14)**

To have courage is to **count on the character of Christ** and obey Him faithfully despite your fears.

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