

The Ordinary Answers of Ordinary Christians

1 Peter 3:13-17

I. Answering Fear vv. 13-15a

A. Blessings answers evil.

B. Worship answers fear.

II. Answering Questions v. 15

A. Hope's Invitation

B. Hope's Explanation*

III. Answering Slander vv. 16-17

A. With Good Works

B. With Confidence in God

*Concerning our call to be prepared to answer, Calvin says: "But it ought to be noticed, that Peter here does not command us to be prepared to solve any questions that may be [asked]; for it is not the duty of all to speak on every subject. But it is the general doctrine that is meant, which belongs to the ignorant and the simple. Then Peter had in view no other thing, than that Christians should make it evident to unbelievers that they Truly worshiped God, and had a holy and good religion. ...for we ought always to take care that all may know that we fear God, and that we piously and reverently regard his legitimate worship."

Welcome To Fifth Street Presbyterian Church

Our purpose for meeting together today is to meet with our Lord as a body of believers. We meet that we might hear Him speak in the reading and preaching of His Word. And, we meet to respond to His voice in our songs, prayers, and affirmations. In the ordinary worship of God we find extraordinary grace, encouragement and reason to hope. This corporate worship of God is the most important thing that happens upon the earth and we are delighted to have you with us as we approach the Father in Christ's name by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This week at a glance:

Today	9:30 A.M.	Sunday School
	11:00 A.M.	Morning Worship
	12:30 P.M.	Choir Practice
	6:00 P.M.	Small Group w/Hopkins

Visitors: We would appreciate a record of your visit, which you can provide by filling out one of the visitor's cards that you will find in the pew. Please place the card in the offering plate. Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Time: The Hopkins small group meets tonight at 6:00 at the home of Gary and Karen Hopkins. The group is discussion oriented, offering encouragement and prayer for one another. Light snacks and plenty of time for fellowship are included. Everyone is welcome.

HELP PLEASE: WEDFEST will resume next Wednesday, March 26 and we are in need of help with clean-up following the meal. Please lend a helping hand to Ruth Stankewitz and Linda Steed.

Fifth Street on the internet: If you have not checked our web presence or Facebook page we would invite you to check them out. Our bulletins are normally posted on the web site by Friday and are provided to help you as you prepare for worship. Also, while you are on our web site you may wish to sign up for our email lists. Our notification list is a means of sending out notices about events, services, and general information and we also have a prayer list which allows you to send and receive prayer requests to and from others here at Fifth Street. To sign up for one of these lists go to our member's area button on the bottom of the page and then use the password ðknöxö.

Check Out the Booklets: We provide a number of different types of outreach materials that we hope you will make use of in your ministry to others. We have New Testaments, gospel booklets, booklets addressing special concerns and needs, and some materials to pass along to those who are struggling with sexual sin. You can pick these booklets up in the narthex. Please take some and make use of them. And as always, you are also welcome to take one of the pew Bibles with you if you have need of a Bible or know someone who does.

Offering counters this week are Milford Brinton and Ken Turman.

Prayer focus for this week:

- Ongoing health issues, including: Bill Pitts, Sandy Hitt, Glen Milham, Ranell Sanders, and Ben Ferrell.
- Rick Boxö MTW
- Ben Haileyö RUF, TX-A&M
- Robby Robertsö Italy
- Providence PCAö Lubbock (Ronnie Row-Pastor)

We have been and remain committed to the preaching of God's Word as one of the ordinary means that God makes use of in the most extraordinary ways in the life of the church. But this commitment has been and will always be under attack in our fallen world so it is always helpful to remind ourselves of the importance of God's Word in the life of our church. Here, from the Larger Catechism, are a couple of questions and answers that call us to visit again how God uses the Word and how we can make a better use of the Word preached.

How is the word made effectual to salvation?

The spirit of God makes the reading, but especially the preaching of the word an effectual means of enlightening, convincing, and humbling sinners; of driving them out of themselves, and drawing them unto Christ; of conforming them to his image, and subduing them to his will; of strengthening them against temptations and corruptions; of building them up in grace, and establishing their hearts in holiness and comfort through faith unto salvation. (WLC 155)

What is required of those that hear the word preached?

It is required of those that hear the word preached, that they attend upon it with diligence, preparation, and prayer; examine what they hear by the scriptures; receive the truth with faith, love, meekness, and readiness of mind, as the word of God; meditate, and confer of it; hide it in their hearts, and bring forth the fruit of it in their lives. (WLC 160)

After the service a Ruling Elder will be available at the front of the sanctuary if you wish to speak or pray with someone.