Daily Devotion #212

**Honor God in Every Way**

**1 Peter 1:17 (NASB)** *“If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth.”*

Having a dad who was active military for twenty years and now two sons who both serve our nation in the military, I understand the meaning of giving honor to those who deserve it. We have been greatly blessed as a nation to have men and women who have literally given their lives for the sake of this country along with others who have served to make sure our homeland is protected from those who would seek to destroy it. One of the things that has remained constant within the military ranks is the persistence in giving honor to those who with a higher rank. It is a captivating moment to witness someone salute or to see a company at attention, to hear the lower-ranked men and women refer to their superior officers or leaders as sir or madam.

As Peter was addressing the dispersed believers in various regions, he wanted to make sure they didn’t lose their proper perspective of God. As you can imagine, when life is on the line and the threat of the enemy is all around, it could be easy to forget the most important One in our lives. So, Peter first shares with them all that God has done for them: He chose them. He gave them a great inheritance in eternal life. He is protecting that inheritance by His own power so that it will never be taken away. So Peter says for us not to forget what God has done for us. The best way to acknowledge our gratitude is to honor Him as God in every way as our lives unfolds.

To honor God means to reverence Him, to respect Him, to be in awe of Him, to salute Him if you will. Not only because He is God but also as God He is the ultimate judge of mankind. He is the One who has the final say in our lives. In fact, it is sad when people who work for God’s arch enemy, Satan, forget that God always holds the final card, so to speak. God is the one Satan always leaves out of the equation as he is working to deceive and manipulate people. And people buy that lie, believing that what they come up with will be the final result. But God is the supreme judge and will always have the final say in every matter of life.

So Peter’s instruction from the Holy Spirit is for God’s people to remember this truth - that God is judge and will judge all people according to each one’s work. Not that our works save us, but our works prove our salvation. (James 2:14-26) Because God is our judge, it is our responsibility to honor Him, respect Him and serve Him faithfully.

While we are on the earth, you and I are to always remember that God is the One who has given us life. He is the One who has rescued us from an eternal hell. Therefore, our response to all God has done is to live each day honoring Him in our actions, with our words, with our heart and minds. That’s what Peter means when he speaks of our conduct. Our conduct is to be like those who serve in the military; they are to be ready to act upon any command given them by their superiors. The difference is that our conduct is for eternal reasons. Everything we do for God in this life as honor to Him has eternal results. Meaning, one day God will open to each of us His eternal home for our enjoyment, but He will base our rewards on our conduct in this life. Listen to how the Apostle Paul says this. **1 Corinthians 3:10-15 (NASB)** *“According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”*

Our duty is to honor our heavenly Father because His is God, because of what He has done for us, and because He is final judge of each one’s life.