

# **Unshakeable: Heaven and Hell and Life in the Middle**

**October 22, 2023**

8 Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude. 9 Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will grant you his blessing. 10 For the Scriptures say,

"If you want to enjoy life  
and see many happy days,  
keep your tongue from speaking evil  
and your lips from telling lies.  
11 Turn away from evil and do good.  
Search for peace, and work to maintain it.  
12 The eyes of the LORD watch over those who do right,  
and his ears are open to their prayers.  
But the LORD turns his face  
against those who do evil."

13 Now, who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good? 14 But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats. 15 Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. 16 But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. 17 Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong!

18 Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.

19 So he went and preached to the spirits in prison— 20 those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood. 21 And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

22 Now Christ has gone to heaven. He is seated in the place of honor next to God, and all the angels and authorities and powers accept his authority.

— 1 Peter 3:8-22

## ***Discussion/Journal Questions***

Share one of your most annoying pet peeves. How do you feel when you encounter someone doing it?

Have you ever been insulted or attacked because of your faith in Christ? What happened and how did you handle it?

Read 1 Peter 3:8-22. In the sermon, Sam said that there were different rules of engagement for Christians. How do you feel about that? Do you agree or disagree?

Read James 3:7-12 and Romans 12:14-18. What are some of the rules of engagement for Christians regarding the words we use?

How can your group help you to grow in this area?

How does the Gospel empower us to live out our calling as ambassadors in a hostile world?

What role does baptism play in helping us to live out this calling?

How can your group pray for you this week?

**Who are you praying for to accept Jesus, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?**

**Who are you currently discipling, and what specifically did you do this week to help them know, love, and follow Jesus?**

**Who are you considering for future discipleship relationships, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?**