

STRANGERS & EXILES



CHRIST'S PEOPLE IN A POST-CHRISTIAN WORLD

Hope for the Middle East– 1 Peter 3:8-12

October 15, 2023

The atrocities taking place in the Middle East are truly horrible. Who hasn't watched the news this past week without being moved to outrage? As we continue our series through 1 Peter, we arrive at chapter 3: 8-12, and hear how radical and historically significant the call to *compassion, love and a tender heart*.

For personal reflection/community discussion

Read – Read the passage in its context several times. Read it slow enough to understand what God is saying through it.

- What ideas or words are emphasised, repeated or related in this passage?
- In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage? (Try to summarise these verses in 10 words or less)

Examine – Next, try to understand the specifics of what the passage is communicating.

- What do you notice about God? What has he done/is he doing in these verses?
- What do you learn about Jesus and his gospel from this passage?
- What does it reveal about people?
- How do you think the writer wanted his reader to respond to these words?

Apply - After seeking to understand God's Word in this passage, consider how he intends to use it in your heart and life today.

- Do you watch the news? Why, or why not?
- The passage speaks of sympathy - to enter into the experience of another—rejoicing in their joy and grieving with their sorrow. For some this will come easy. For others, it won't, and yet the call is there, *be sympathetic*. How can the gospel nurture kindle this godly emotion within us?
- Pray for the conflict, for peace, for the ME church and for many to come to know our King through this suffering. And cry to our Lord, *come*.