

A different style of life.

Main passage: 1 Peter 4:12-19

Other passages: Matthew 12:30, .Proverbs 29:2. Matthew 24:11-13, Daniel 3, Psalms 37:2, Matthew 24:37-39

Thank the Lord for all the mercies to you .

Peter was a disciple of Christ. He saw many things that others did not, Jesus told to a few of them in several occasions to go with him and among those was Peter. Peter was the one that walked over the sea, he was in the transfiguration mountain, he was the one to whom the miracle was done of finding a coin in the mouth of a fish to pay the taxes. But not all was good, he was the only one that denied Jesus, we are not criticising him but this is in the bible and because it is in the bible we say it. Peter allowed himself to be changed by the Lord, restored. Jesus said to Mary Magdalene when he arose from the dead, "Say to my disciples and Peter to go to Galilee that I want to meet them". John 21 tells us this story. Jesus asked him, "Do you love me?" As if He did not know, but He knows everything, even before we pray He knows what we are going to ask him.

What would we say to the Lord if He asked us "Do you really love me? Do you love me more than you love your work? Your family? Your own life?. Peter said to the Lord "You know all". This is the only occasion that the Lord mentions the name of Peter's father. He said, "Simon son of Jonah". Why? Can it be because the positive or the negative influence from our parents affects us?. Did you have a good father? or Do you miss the figure of you father?. "Simon son of Jonah" Jesus tells him. His father was named as a prophet from the old testament, he was a revel, he knew what God wanted but did not want to do it. Do you know what is God's will for you? Young people, do you know?

You can't serve God halfway, you have to be radical to serve the Lord. The Lord was radical, He said "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad". Matthew 12:30. There is not a neutral place nor position in the gospel. There is two kind of people, the ones that are saved because of what Jesus did and those that don't because they don't accept it, there is not a way in the middle. The church has to be radical, sometimes this is not well accepted because it is not diplomatic.

Jesus was really the Messiah? Did He die on the cross? Was He placed in the tomb with 16 soldiers guarding it during 72 hours? The stone was removed, the soldiers could not do anything to stop that. For a month and a half He presented Himself to lots of people. If this is truth it is the greatest history ever told, not any other in history can get close to Jesus and what He did. If this is truth, that He died and rose again, this has to change our life.

We criticize the jews because they are radical with the sabbath but we should imitate them and be radical also with the day for the Lord.

There is number of people that have chosen to be indifferent, they don't care about anything. I call them the "anesthetized ones". How many people in the world is anesthetized and they don't realize of what is happening? What is going to happen? It is not that I want to scare people but there are things that are going to happen for real. We do know many of this things because they are in the Bible. Others have chosen to do what they want, to disobey. They say no one is going to tell me what to do. Others have chosen not to know voluntarily, they say they are not interested in knowing. Others fight

against the bible, christianity and the church. Be very careful, be ready because things are going to be more difficult for those that want to serve the Lord.

It is not truth that when you come to the Lord you are not going to have problems. There are brothers and sisters that are suffering all over the world. The gospel does not mean that the problems disappear, but the Lord promises that He will help you, give you the strength and bless you in the midst of the problems. Daniel, Abraham, Jesus, etc they all had trials. In our trials we have the victory in Jesus's name.

Don't preach that you are not going to have problems when you come to the church, people say this but this is not truth, that is not the gospel, that is to manipulate the people. There are difficulties, but the Lord will give us the strength. Read Paul's list where he mentions his sufferings but in all of them he overcome victoriously.

When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn. Proverbs 29:2. When people that hate God is in the government and they contradict what the bible says problems will come. This country is going to be under the judgement of God, in the last days the bad will multiply. It is already happening as the bible says. For example, they teach the kids things against the word of God, sex classes without the consentment of the parents. In Belgium you can not publically preach the gospel.

Our ideas have to be very clear and our eyes be put in Jesus. They are going to try for us to renounce to our principles but the bible says "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" Matthew 24:13, The bible also says that "the love of many shall wax cold" Matthew 24:12. People is surprised because we don't support their traditions, our style of life is different. Young people be careful with what you are studying, be radical in your relationship with the Lord to avoid them to end up contaminating you.

In the bible we see people that had a pressure that we won't have in our lives. Look at David, he did not have the support of his family but he knew God and His power. David could not allow nor stand to hear any bad thing said against God. The philistines tried to prove that their false God was greater but they failed several times. They tried with the ark first, they stole the ark, but they had no success and had to return it, then they tried again with Goliath. David knew that behind that was the devil trying to tell them that they were worth nothing and what to do. That is exactly what happens today, the world want us to do all things the same as they do, follow their patterns and the model of the devil. We leave our kids for hours in the school with all that bad influence, if you parents are not careful imagine what society we are going to have.

David did not allow the philistine to say bad against God, as you don't have to permit in your class or in your work for anyone to say any bad against God. If somebody says something against God stand up and speak, even if they laugh they have to know that there is someone there that does not agree and is a reference point. David said " No more". He started to change the spiritual atmosphere with his mouth.

And what about Joseph? Didn't he has pressure? His brothers made fun of him , he ended being sold by his own brothers. The bible teach us that because he wanted to do things according to God's will he was put into jail, but God was with Joseph.

This is the kind of people we need in society. Do people at your work know that you are a christian? God has put us to be light and salt, not to be the "good "one.

Imagine that a young boy that gets kidnapped by an islamic group, they make him read the quran, they tell him that all he learned as a youngster was a lie, how would that person be after 80 years? Look at Daniel. His parents died, they took him to another country, they changed his name to Belsazar, son of Satan, they changed his language, his religion, but they could not change him, his faith in the living God, not even the lions ate him, and the King of Babylon was put to his knees.

Imagine today they make you bow down in front of someone to save your life... The bible tell us the story of three men in a kingdom that did not do this. Daniel 3. The King got very angry, the same as the word gets angry when we don't follow their pattern. These three men did not know that God was going to protect them from the fire, they pray "If today God has decided our death this way, God give us the grace to die like this". We can not choose when and how we are going to die. These three men were believers since being young and they were not going to bow down in front of a statue. After the King put them inside the oven of fire he looked inside and they were not tied, they were walking and there were not three men but four. Do you think they entered first and then the fourth came in? Or the fourth was already inside? God is always ahead. The king ended up on his knees and said "There is no God as the God of this people". They were under a very strong pressure. We see in the bible they tried to destroy Daniel, David, Moses, etc but he that persevere till the end will be saved. They were radical, they were willing to give their life before giving up their faith.

We are about to enter a new spiritual stage. The worst things are about to come. Israel will be attacked, but its enemies forget that all those who have come against Israel, all the civilizations that wanted to destroy Israel have disappeared, they have not survived. They are not fighting against people but against the God of Israel and therefore they can never win because God has chosen to do it like that, He said it and God always fulfills His promises and His word. All this information is in the bible, we can not look at other side, we can not have a divided heart, In the bible it says, "Blessed are those of clean heart", those that are radical, that only look to God. By looking to God we will be saved and will be able to persevere in victory. The only refuge is God, is Jesus.

We are about to finish another year and God has been faithful because God is always faithful although we are not always faithful to Him. Our life style is unique and we don't have anything to envy the world. I don't participate of halloween for example, I don't envy the people of the world, how empty they are, they have nothing and we got all in Jesus Christ, we don't have to envy even the one that seems to prosper because "For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb". Psalms 37:2

Every saturday we should read Psalms 92, is the psalms for the saturday. We can not remain with our mouth closed, our lifestyle has to mark a difference.

Few days ago I read in Matthew 24, ³⁷ But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. ³⁸ For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark. ³⁹ And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.". They did not have a clue of what was going to happen to them, only one knew that. Why? Because they were anesthetized, they did not want to know, they had the information because Noah told them but they didn't get prepared and when the flood came millions died. Who sent the flood? God.

What about Sodom and Gomorrah? Only one knew what was going to happen.

We know what is going to happen. This is not to get people scared but it is to be ready. We live in the last days, we know because it is in the Bible. Wars, never in the history there has ever been so many armament as there is today. We know time is getting short, the day and hour nobody knows, but the

time we are able to discern. Jesus said if when you see the fig tree you see the season of the year, how come you can not discern the times?.

How many want to be radical? How many want to get serious with the Lord? Lets ask God to give us strength to be brave, to talk about Jesus to your boss, don't change jobs before leaving the seed, talk to your brother, to the one that sits next to you in the bus, in the supermarket, talk to everyone you can, the Lord is returning soon. Get ready, the Lord is coming back soon. How sad that there is no one to preach to the politicians and advice them about what is going to happen. Christmas is coming again, life goes to fast, there is so much need. Be radical with the Lord, get a compromise with the Lord. Let everyone know about the God you have.