IT IS NEVER WRONG TO DO RIGHT

I PETER 4:12-19

 I believe it is an established truth that it is never wrong to do right. You have probably heard me share the story from the pulpit of the first time I ever met Brother Ralph Rosser. We were at Bethel Baptist Church at Snead for a youth service. Though he was not a youth, he had been asked to preach that night. I was very excited because I had heard so much about Brother Ralph Rosser I could hardly wait to hear him. When he took the stand, he announced the title of his message which was “Living Right.” Now I must say that I was a little disappointed in the title. My thinking was anyone could preach on living right. Nevertheless by the time he finished I was thinking not just anyone could preach it like he did. He used the line that I have used as a title for this devotion and I have never forgotten what he said that “It is never wrong to do right.”

 In the book of First Peter he speaks much about the trials that Christians may suffer for Christ’s sake. Our text is no different. He tells us in so doing that we partake in Jesus’ sufferings. If we are reproached for the name of Christ we can rejoice for the spirit of God is resting on us. It may not be comfortable to suffer for Jesus but we can take comfort in the fact that we are not forsaken by the Lord when we suffer for him.

 Peter mentions something else that we should pay close attention to that is found in verse fifteen. **15** But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or *as* a thief, or *as* an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. 1 Peter 4:15. Way too often I see people who do wrong and suffer for it and want to blame it on the Lord. Peter says to the Christian that even though we can be forgiven of our sins, we do not have a license to sin. When we do wrong it brings a reproach on the Christian community. Many of the unsaved today are using our sins as an excuse to continue living in sin. We want to win people too Christ not drive them away. If we suffer let it be for the cause of Christ not because we have slipped back into our sinful nature.

 Judgment begins with us. We are part of God’s household. As we read God’s Word it sanctifies us. This sanctification is a process of cleansing, pruning and making us holy before God. It leads us to do right. Hatred is pruned or cut away and love takes up that vacant space in our hearts. Envy is removed and humility takes over. Instead of wanting to possess more than my neighbor, I now want to esteem him or her higher than myself. There is nothing wrong with doing right. Judgment starts here at the church and with us who are the church. It should start today.

 Often Brother Christ Delamont has spoken in his devotions about just doing the right thing. I really believe that we should get a firm grip on this elementary thought of living right. It is a great testimony of our faith in Jesus. It makes us accepted both in the eyes of our neighbor and in the eyes of the Lord. Decision making becomes much easier when we have already determined to do the right thing.

Yours in Christ, Brother Randy Burtram