

FIRST PETER

Sure Hope for Unsure Days

Christ our Blessed Good

1 Peter 3:8-12

PASTOR'S PRAYER

Almighty God & Father in heaven, blessed by your name. You have all life, glory, goodness, blessedness, in and of Yourself. You are the Giver of life. You sustain of life. You alone are the fountain of all being, of whom, through whom, and to whom are all things. Indeed, blessed by your infinite name. We gather here this morning, LORD, acknowledging that the gifts of this congregation and our love for one another has come from your loving hand. When left to our own desires and assumptions we push away, become critical or even self absorbed in our relating to those around us. We foolishly and sinfully assume that you have given us each other here this morning to be loved instead of to love and serve them with the love that you have loved us, a sacrificial, giving love. Grant faith this morning as we hear your Word proclaimed & Christ in His love for us set forward that we might love life & seek good days for your glory. We ask for your Spirit to do these things this morning, LORD; but not our will but yours be done we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our life. Amen & Amen.

OUTLINE

1. Our Love for the Church (v. 8)
2. Our Blessing to the World (v. 9)
3. Our Life before the LORD (vv. 10-12)

Central Textual Truth

Peter calls these elect exiles to love one another faithfully.

Central Sermon Aim

I want SGBC to love Christ & each other faithfully.