"Pursue peace ... and the Sanctification"

Intro: As we open to our text this Lord’s Day the Author continues to tutor us in __________ __ __________.

A. __________ sets before us the supreme example of reasoning and living by faith. If we are to persevere in the faith we must do so by fixing our eyes on Him. Beloved, not only is Jesus the supreme example of faith, and the author and perfecter of faith, but He is the very __________ __ our __________.

B. Following Christ’s example the believer is to consider what he suffers as God’s __________ discipline - that by which He perfects us, bringing us to maturity, realizing the peaceful __________ of righteousness.

I. __________!

A. When suffering persecution we are to pursue __________ __ __________ __ men.

1. With as much __________ as those who hate Christ persecute us, so should we ________ to be at peace with them.

2. Of pursuing peace A.W. Pink writes, “... an ‘earnest pursuit’: it is the eager chasing after something that flies from one, being used of hunters and hounds after game. The Christian is to __________ __ __________ to live amicably with all men, and no matter how contentious and unfriendly they may be, he is to strive and overtake that which seeks to flee him. Peace is one of the outstanding graces which the Christian is called upon to exercise and manifest.”

3. To __________ peace is to run __ __________, to run with eyes fixed on Jesus, to run the race with strengthen hands and knees, making straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed – so that where you would naturally respond with violent intent, you supernaturally respond with peace.

4. If you suffer persecution for the name of Christ it is in the mind of God that you of faith should pursue peace with those who persecute you, and that you do so by __________ your soul ___ the faithful __________.

B. In fixing our eyes on Jesus we are to __________ the __________ without which no one will see the Lord.

1. This pursuit of “the sanctification” takes place __ __________ __ ___________ in Christ.
a. This __________________ is not something we work our way into, or conjure up, or by it merit something for ourselves but it is ___ __________ ___ ______ by which He continues to work His perfection in us on account that He saved us.

2. Beloved, the disciplines brought us by the hand of our loving Father are ______ _____ __________________ with which we will see Him.

3. What is the sanctification (definite article) we are to pursue? It is the being ______ ______ by God unto God. It is that inward and outward conformity to Christ God works in us that differentiates us from the world, that makes us peculiar and distinguishable as the ________ _____ people, partakers of the divine nature.

4. Don’t wrestle against this but pursue it. __________ to God’s good work of sanctification for without it no one will see the Lord! Desire His sanctification! With eyes of faith fixed on Jesus run with the joy of knowing that in all your pains and trials ______ ___ sanctifying you, setting you apart unto Himself in your practices, ultimately ______________ _____ to Himself for your heavenly reward!

5. Why is it that without this sanctification no one will see the Lord? Because if God is not working the sanctification in us then it is shown that we don’t belong to Him, not having any part of Him. It is not that this sanctification earns us anything for it is His work not ours, but it shows that we belong to Him who sanctifies. This sanctification shows that He began a good work in us for through it He is ______________ _______ ______ ______.

Finally: Dearly loved family, with eyes of faith fixed on ________ we are to run the race set before us by pursuing peace with all men for in so doing we ______________ the sanctification by which God is bringing us to Himself.

Faith knows and believes the Word of God: that the trials and tribulations of persecution are to be received as God’s good discipline, for our sanctification. By faith in His Word we are to so believe this to be true that not only are we to be at peace with God, but that we also pursue peace with all men. In this sanctifying work God is bringing us to Himself and for this joy that is set before us, that ___ ______ _____ ______________, let us live by faith in Christ Jesus, pursuing peace and the sanctification.

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