



## The text:

- *Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called **so that you may inherit a blessing.** (1 Peter 3:8-9)*

In the first part of this text Peter describes how a Christian should behave towards others:

- sympathetically
- compassionately and humbly
- not repaying evil with evil or insult with insult
- on the contrary, blessing others

Peter then says that a Christian is called to **inherit blessing**.

In verse 10 he continues with the description of how a Christian should behave:

- *Whoever would love life and see good days*
  - *must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech.*
  - *They must turn from evil and do good;*
  - *they must seek peace and pursue it.* (1 Peter 3:10-11)

How strange that Peter summarises how a Christian should behave lovingly towards others and should bless them and then, in the middle of his discourse, remarks that a Christian is **himself** called to receive blessing.

**What does he mean, exactly?**

## An explanation from the Greek:

Three words in the sentence are important in order to understand what Peter is saying:

**'because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.'**

- because
- blessing
- may inherit.

### Because:

A word that is also translated as:

- **for** to this you are called

The Greek word translated by **'because'** is **'hoti'** and it is preceded by the **verb 'oida' conjugated as a participle**, and which is not translated in the text.

The Greek text says therefore: **'oida hoti'** (*because*) *you are called to this ...*

The OLB translates:

- **'oida'** as: to know, to see, to notice, to discern
  - conjugated as a participle: knowing(ly), (while) seeing, (while) noticing, (while) discerning
- **'hoti'** as: that, because



When the translation of '**oida hoti**' is imported the sentence becomes:

→ ... **knowing that you are called to this ...**

### **May inherit:**

Here the Greek uses the verb '**kleronomeo**', translated by the OLB as: aorist, active, subjective.

The OLB translates it as:

→ To receive an inheritance, to inherit

According to the conjugation '**kleronomeo**' is translated as: **inherits**.

Like the rich young ruler who asked Jesus:

- *Good teacher, what must I do **to inherit** eternal life? (Mark 10:17)*

**Imported into the sentence:** ... *knowing that you are called to this: that you **inherit** ...*

### **Blessing:**

Here the Greek uses the verb '**eulogeo**' conjugated as a **participle**.

The OLB translates it as:

→ to praise, to bless, to laud

- conjugated as a participle: (while) praising, (while) blessing, (while) lauding

**Imported into the sentence:** ... *knowing that you are called to this: that you inherit **while blessing**.*

### **Alternative translation:**

#### **The Bible text:**

- *Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called **so that you may inherit a blessing**. (1 Peter 3:9)*

**According to the alternative translations**, as discussed above, Peter says:

- *Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, **knowing that you are called to this: that you inherit while blessing**. (1 Peter 3:9)*

According to the Greek text Peter lays the emphasis upon '**others**' and he calls us to bless as we go through life, for that is the calling of every Christian.

Not to live for oneself, but to be a light in the world.

Peter emphasises the fact that a Christian should realise to what he is called, so that he will receive his inheritance (eternal life<sup>1</sup>) **in heaven**.

---

<sup>1</sup> Matthew 19:29 - *And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and **will inherit eternal life**.*