

1 Peter 3:13-17

Better: Suffer for the Good You Do, Not the Evil

Preface: A Quote: *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis

Chief Thought of 1 Peter 3:13-17

Christians sanctify Jesus as Holy God in their hearts by giving a gentle answer for the hope they have in them while they endure suffering for righteousness and in doing good in a hostile world.

No One Can Finally Harm You For Doing Good (v 13)

1. The Awkward Question: *Who is there to harm you?*
 - a. Many are hostile (verbally, mentally, physically)
 - b. Persecution is real in the world
 - c. The USA is not like the Middle East or China, but we are still maligned by the world (**Ex: Mt 19:4-6**)
 - d. To Follow Christ Openly (*Doing Good*) will Bring Insult in a world that Desires to Suppress the Truth
 - e. The prevailing Doctrine in the World: Tolerate Everything But Christian Values and its Followers
 - f. Peter's Setting: Social Discrimination & Hostility, but not full blown persecution (was on the horizon)
 - g. America is the Same, but we may face hostility
2. The Aim of the Question: No One Can Harm You!
 - a. In the extreme sense of the word, no human can truly harm us (**Mt 10:28**); God will Triumph
 - b. What is the Purpose of Evil NOW though?

Present Suffering Is God's Means To Bless You (vv 14a, 17)

1. When you do righteousness, you will suffer for it
 - a. God Blesses You in Suffering (**Mt 5:10**)
 - b. Better to Suffer for Doing Good, not Evil
 - a. This is a Restatement of **1 Peter 2:15-16, 20**
 - b. The Law: We Get What We Deserve
 - c. God's Grace: We Receive Mercy Instead of Wrath
2. God Appoints/Wills Suffering, Persecution for Belief
 - a. *For to this you were Called (1 Pt 2:21, 3:9)*
 - b. *If it is God's Will (verse 17)*
3. Make Faith Unshakeable (**James 1:2-3**)
4. Creates God-ward Dependence (**1 Corinthians 1:8-9**)
5. God's Aim: Your Faith Magnifies God's Grace (**2 Corinthians 12:7-9**)

Reverence Christ As Your Holy God Of Hope (vv 14b-15)

1. Do Not Fear What Men Fear – Injury from Others
2. Since God Wills and Uses Suffering for Our Good & His Glory, we have no Need to Fear what they Fear
3. Fear of God: Ready to Give an Answer for Our Hope
 - a. Jesus' Word to the Disciples (**Luke 21:10-18**)
 - b. There is a way not to be Ready: No Rehearsal
 - c. What does Peter mean by saying, *Be Ready*?
4. Answer: We Sanctify/Revere/Fear Christ as Holy God in Our Hearts = How???
 - a. The background of Verses 14-15 = **Isaiah 8**
 - a. Begin in verse 6
 - b. Verse 8: *O Immanuel (See Chs 7, 9)*
 - c. Verses 9-10: *God with Us*
 - d. Verse 12 // 1 Pt 3:14b
 - e. Verse 13 – Yahweh (LORD) replaced with Christ by Peter in 1 Peter 3:15
 - b. We Sanctify Christ as Our Holy God in Our Hearts by Having Him be our Fear and Dread as Our Hope!
 - c. Fear & Dread are not Cowering (**See Is 8:14a**)
 - d. Christ is Our Sanctuary – Place of Stillness!
 - e. Christ is Our Rock – Our Triumphant Victor!
5. Revering Christ is Fearless Hope in Him as God
 - a. He is Sovereign, King, Lord, Creator
 - b. Instead of Worldly Fear, We Hope in Him → Worship & Sanctified Obedience to Him
6. What it means to Be Ready to Give an Answer: We Revere Jesus as Holy God by Hoping In Him
 - a. Hostility comes, they see your gentle hope and respect
 - b. They come and ask, "Why are You so Unique?"
 - c. You now have an Opportunity to Share Jesus

Gospel Enmity Is Put To Shame By The Good You Do (v16)

1. A good conscience accompanies the good you do
2. The good you do backs up the defense of hope you have when asked
3. You might be slandered for the good you do, if God wills it... but they will be put to shame
 - a. Your innocence will be enough to refute them
 - b. God, in the end will Vindicate the Righteous