

# 1 PETER 3:13-17 “SANCTIFY THE LORD GOD IN YOUR HEARTS”

- A last major section of the letter begins here. From this point onward Peter is concerned principally (but not exclusively) with the Christians’ response to actual persecution.<sup>1</sup>

**13** And who is he who will harm you if you become **followers** of what is good?

- The word “followers” is the translation of a Greek word meaning **“zealots.”** The verb means “to burn with zeal, to desire earnestly.”<sup>2</sup>

**1 Corinthians 14:1** **Pursue love**, and desire spiritual *gifts*, but especially that you may prophesy.

**1 Thessalonians 5:15** See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always **pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.**

**1 Timothy 6:11-12**

**11** But you, O man of God, flee these things and **pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.**

**12** Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

**Hebrews 12:14** **Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:**

**14** But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, *you are blessed.* “*And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.*”

- To be “blessed” in this context does not mean to “feel delighted” but to be “highly privileged.”
  - Christians are not to be afraid of what men can do to them (cf. Matt. 10:28). Consequently 1 Peter 3:14 concludes with a quotation from Isaiah 8:12 which, in context, is part of an exhortation to fear God rather than men.<sup>3</sup>

**15** But **sanctify the Lord God in your hearts**, and always **be ready to give a defense** to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and **(respect) fear**;

*“Sanctified by God the Father.” — Jude 1*

<sup>1</sup>Marshall, I. H. (1991). *1 Peter*. The IVP New Testament commentary series (1 Pe 3:13). Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press.

<sup>2</sup>Wuest, K. S. (1997, c1984). *Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament : For the English reader* (1 Pe 3:13). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

cf. *confer*, compare

<sup>3</sup>Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

*“Sanctified in Christ Jesus.” — 1 Corinthians 1:2*

*“Through sanctification of the Spirit.” — 1 Peter 1:2*

**C.H. Spurgeon:** *Mark the union of the Three Divine Persons in all their gracious acts. How unwisely do those believers talk who make preferences in the Persons of the Trinity; who think of Jesus as if he were the embodiment of everything lovely and gracious, while the Father they regard as severely just, but destitute of kindness. Equally wrong are those who magnify the decree of the Father, and the atonement of the Son, so as to depreciate the work of the Spirit.* <sup>4</sup>

- **“Ready to give a defense”** (ἔτοιμοι πρὸς ἀπολογία).  
Lit., *ready for an answer.*

**“Defense” is our word apology**, not in the popular sense of *excuse*, but in the more radical sense of *answering a question with understanding.* <sup>5</sup>

- Are you ready to share the “hope that is in you?”
- Are you prepared to defend your faith if need be?
- Turn off your TVs and do some reading, some studying!

**16 having a good conscience**, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

- **I believe it is appalling how many Christians still live under the rule of past sins, past failures, past indiscretions.**
- **Get over it!**
- **Get a clear conscience!**

**Hebrews 9:14** how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, **cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**

**Philippians 3:12-14**

**12** Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

**13** Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; **but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,**

**14** I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

**17 For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.**

- Clear consciences allow us to put suffering in its proper perspective:
  - How many of us when wrong occurs figure we deserve it because of our sins?

<sup>4</sup>Spurgeon, C. H. (1995). *Morning and evening : Daily readings* (July 12 AM). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc. Lit. Literally.

<sup>5</sup>Vincent, M. R. (2002). *Word studies in the New Testament* (Vol. 1, Page 3-653). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

- Do you think our God is a God that takes pleasure in drilling you constantly for the very sins His only begotten Son died for?
- Proper perspective:
  - Another adventure is here!
  - Another opportunity for God to prove His sovereignty.
  - Another opportunity to be humbled so that God can lift me up with His grace.
  - Another opportunity for God's grace to sufficient alone.