

The Blessing of Living with Christian Suffering – an Opportunity for Witness in Word (1

Peter 3: 13-15)

- The central issue Peter is dealing with in his letter comes to the fore : suffering
- He has shown how the love of God turns the problem upside down.
- We are free from the need of vindication, & filled with humility as heirs of grace

I. Repaying Evil with Good, Receiving Good for Evil

- Peter's words 'now' connects what he is about to say to what he has said already
- **'Who, then** [in light of the Lord's care, & His control of evil], **will do you evil?**
- Peter's words express Paul's affirmation: If God is for us who can be against us?
- Jesus declared that those who suffer for righteousness are blessed(Matt 5:11,12)
- "If you should suffer" persecution was not yet in full swing yet (church today)

II. Peter's Good Exchange: Fear of Man 4 -Fear of God

- The boldness & humility needed to witness come through fundamental exchange
- Christians must exchange: fear of men for fear of the Lord (Peter's testimony)
- Peter knew the secret that conquers fear (Isa 8:12,13) Don't fear what they fear!
- The antidote to the fear of men: awareness of the glory of the Lord Himself: how?

III. Set Christ Apart in our Hearts as Lord

- Peter's words 'But in your hearts set apart' lit. 'Sanctify the Lord' (15) means:
- confessing with heart devotion that Jesus Christ is Lord: bow to Him in adoration
- Praising heart: immune to the fear of people: a fear of another possesses our hearts
- Christ's resurrection: evidence Peter needed to know Christ is Lord of lords

IV. Hope in Christ Is Courage & Substance of Our Witness

- Hope in Christ provides both: courage & substance of the Christian's witness (15)
- The Christian: strong offence = only defense: defend faith, proclaim the Gospel
- Christians are ready in season and out of season to give a defense of their faith