



WHAT TO DO WHEN WE SUFFER?

1 Peter 3:13-17

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Good morning Church! Peter deals with a new section dealing specifically with the problem of persecution by unbelievers. God's common grace allows those who do what is right to be rewarded, not punished. But it's not always the case so Peter recognizes the possibility of suffering for righteousness' sake if God wills it or allows it.

1 Peter 3:13-17

"Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?"

14 *But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, **15** but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, **16** having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. **17** For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil."*

1. KNOW That You Are BLESSED. (v 13-14)

*"In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.
What can flesh do to me?" Psalm 56:4*

2. TRUST in CHRIST. (v 14-15)

- The HEART is the sanctuary in which CHRIST is to be worshiped.

3. Use This OPPORTUNITY To WITNESS While Doing Right. (v 15-17)

- “ALWAYS be prepared” means to ACTIVELY be ready to confess Christ as Lord.

Ways to maintain a good conscience:

- Avoid conscious or willful disobedience to God throughout each day
- Continue to practice immediate repentance and prayer of forgiveness when you become aware of any sin in one's life.
- Be willing and ready to share the hope of Jesus Christ that helps us endure.

Salvation through Jesus Christ

The single most important decision a person could ever make in their lifetime is to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. God has continued to reveal Himself throughout history for people to know Him and worship Him. However, the Bible says, "all have sinned and fall short of God's glory" and we don't deserve eternal life because the wages of sin is death". Yet through God's love, only "Jesus gives us eternal life by His grace through offering us faith"... faith is a gift of God to fully trust in him. God's word says, That if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is LORD and believe in your heart God raised Him from the dead YOU WILL BE SAVED. The Bible says to turn away from doing things your way, to REPENT of your sins and BELIEVE in Jesus who gives forgiveness and eternal life.