



"Faithfully Facing Persecution" (Part 2)

04081PET3.14b-15(76)

1 Peter 3:14b-15



13 And who is there to harm you if you should be zealous in pursuing good? **14** But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, [you are] blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR WHAT THEY FEAR AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED. **15** But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you the reason for the hope in you—yet with gentleness and fear; **16** having a good conscience so that in

the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. **17** For it is better, if the will of God should so desire, that you suffer for doing what is right than for doing what is wrong.

— 1 Peter 3:13-17, As translated from the Greek New Testament by T. Bartolucci.

Introduction:

Expect hostility and react with hospitality.

And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

I. A Ready Defense: Facing Persecution for Christ's Sake (13-17)

A. Remain Faithful (13)

Ask yourself the Question: "What is my Pursuit?"

1. "If you should be" assumes that you are (Subjunctive of probable future condition)
2. We're to be *zēlōtēs* (ζηλωτης) - "zealots"

B. Endure Hostility (14a)

Ask yourself the Question: "What is my Perspective?"

1. There are four "moods" in the Greek language:
 - 1) Indicative (used to make a statement); 2) Imperative (used to express a command); 3) Subjunctive (used to express a probability); 4) Optative (used to express a possibility - even something that's unlikely).

2. "Blessed" = *makarios* (μακάριος) - "happy" - "blessed" - "favored"

a. Note Matthew 5:1-12 and 1 Peter 1:3-9

C. **A** _____ Fearing Men (14b)

Ask yourself the Question: "Whom do I Fear?"

1. Background in Isaiah chapter 8 . . .

2. **"AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED"**

a. Aorist subjunctive of prohibition (forbidding an action (in this case, "fear") that may or may not be occurring. Lit. "do not fear the fear." (phobos)

b. Peter quotes from the Septuagint (LXX)

D. **D** _____ your Hope (15-16)

1. Note the first word, "But"

In the passage from Isaiah, the 'fear' related to 'the conspiracy' (the threat of Syria). *Don't fear what the people fear.* Here in Peter, the 'fear' relates not to an outside concern, but to the people themselves. *Don't fear them.*

Ask yourself the Question: "What is my Answer?"

2. That "answer" looks in two directions: inward and outward

a. Inward: note where it starts - in the heart

(1) What does it mean to "sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts?"

(a) Our central confession: " _____ "

b. Outward: Be ready to make an *apologia* - "apology" (reasoned defense)

Conclusion: