



## "Faithfully Facing Persecution" (Part 3)

05081PET3.16-17(77)

### 1 Peter 3:16-17



**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. We're to be *zēlōtēs* (ζηλωτης) - "zealous"

##### B. Endure Hostility (14a)

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

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

##### C. Avoid Fearing Men (14b)

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1) Our central confession: " \_\_\_\_\_ "

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

3. Verse 16 returns to the context of defending our hope

a. "Conscience" comes from the feminine noun *suneidēsis* (συνειδησις) - "*sun*" ("together with") and *eidenai* ("to know")

(1) This is "conviction that guides \_\_\_\_\_ "

b. A look at the conscience from 1 Timothy chapter 1 . . .

<b>Comparison Between 1 Peter 2:12 and 3:16</b>		
<b>Verse</b>	<b>Text</b> <small>(my translation)</small>	<b>Anticipated Result</b> <small>(of the Christian's good behavior)</small>
2:12	Keep your behavior excellent among the pagans, so that in whatever they accuse you as evildoers, they may see your good works and glorify God in the day of visitation.	<u>Salvation</u> for those who slander
3:16	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.	<u>Shame</u> for those who slander
<p><i>Perhaps the "shame" of 3:16 will prove to be what God uses to bring some of those who slander you to the "salvation" of 2:12. Compare wives with unsaved husbands in 3:1-6.</i></p>		

E. **Y** \_\_\_\_\_ to God's Will (17)

*Ask yourself the question, "Why will I Suffer?"*

**Conclusion:** A R.E.A.D.Y. Defense!