



Lesson #12: Preparing for Persecution (1 Peter 3:13-17)

“Christianity was born in a world of totalitarianism ... It was not strange to be persecuted. What is strange historically is that we are _____” (John Piper). For the first 300 years, Christians had no legal protection in the Roman Empire. To become a follower of Jesus meant risking _____.

None of this true “persecution” that was very familiar to Peter’s original audience is familiar to us as American Christians. But even though we have not paid that kind of price for our faith, we all faced the fear of _____ to lost people about the Lord Jesus Christ. Peter’s theme in our text is how to be a Christian witness in a _____ world. His words apply whether we are facing torture for our faith or wheter we’re just nervous about the thought of talking to someone else about the Gospel. Most of us will never have to respond to Christ in such catastrophic ways that the early church did but **God wants us all to know how to respond _____ when we are being _____.**

In verses 13-17 we can glean at least 5 powerful guidelines for the persecuted by asking ourselves questions as we “Prepare for Persecution.”

WHAT IS YOUR _____? (3:13)

Peter’s first instruction to us is that we be committed to pursuing _____. This is really a preparatory consideration to the rest of the instruction that is going to be given.

Verse 13 is a rhetorical question that is being asking. It could be translated ...

- “Who is the one who will harm you if you are a _____ do-gooder.”

A common assumption in most communities is that those who do good will not have evil done to them. That is the allusion being made in this verse. The text is simply saying that most people will not respond in hostility if you have lived a habit of _____ before them.

But there are exceptions. That is why the 18th verse reminds us that “Christ also hath suffered for our sins, the _____ for the _____.”

WHAT IS YOUR _____? (3:14)

When you look at _____ around you are you confident of God’s _____?

_____x Peter is going to use this little word “suffer” in his epistle. In fact 12 of the 41 uses of the word “suffer” in the New Testament come from 1 Peter. The Spirit of God is going to use this little word to give us _____ when we are hurting.

WHAT IS YOUR _____? (3:15)

The practice of our witness before a hostile world involves clearly communicating our position.

Accepting Christ as your Savior comes with an assumption. The assumption goes something like this ...

- “Ye shall receive power ... and ye shall be _____.” (Acts 1:8)

There is no such thing as a _____-Saint. You are to be able to defend your faith in every situation whether it be formal or informal. This is going to require some work on our part. Some study. Both words “defense” and “account” imply a thoughtful, _____ well-reasoned presentation of the Gospel.

WHAT IS YOUR _____? (3:16)

Peter is concerned that his readers live such a noble life that if people criticize Christians for the way they live, they have to tell a _____ to do it.

The end of verse 15 says we are to be a Gospel witness even in the face of persecution with “_____” which means _____. We are not to overpower someone with the force of our personality or something else. There is a reverent caution that comes with an understanding of the greatness of your responsibility.

They may disapprove of you _____ but may they never disapprove of your _____.

WHAT IS YOUR _____? (3:17)

Have you ever considered that God has a purpose for your life?

The basic premise of verse 17 is this: Unjust suffering is always better than _____ suffering. This isn’t admonition as much as it is an assurance. This is a promise that you will _____, sometimes even for doing the right thing. But in the end, God will reward you. Eyes of faith see that. All things are ordained by the _____ of God, even sufferings.

Concluding Thoughts

I don’t know if it’s the flesh or an inbred fear of conflict but we all get nervous when it comes to giving the Gospel in a hostile world. The question that really needs to be asked when we consider Peter’s text here is this: “Are you prepared to _____ for Christ?”