



## BE READY - HOPE SHARED

UNCOMMON PURSUITS: EPISODE 7 OF 10

1 Peter 3:13-22

*Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." <sup>15</sup> But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, <sup>16</sup> keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. <sup>17</sup> For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. <sup>19</sup> After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— <sup>20</sup> to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water; <sup>21</sup> and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him. 1 Peter 3:13-22*

FOUR THINGS WE NEED TO HELP THE HOPELESS...

### 1. WE NEED HOPE PROPERLY FOCUSED

*But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. 1 Peter 3:15*

### 2. WE NEED REASONS INDIVIDUALLY PREPARED

*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. 1 Peter 3:15*

### 3. WE NEED GENTLENESS SINCERELY EXPRESSED

*...but do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 1 Peter 3:15-16*

### 4. WE NEED CONFIDENCE COURAGEOUSLY MAINTAINED

*[Jesus] went and proclaimed God's salvation to earlier generations who ended up in the prison of God's judgment because they wouldn't listen. You know, even though God waited patiently all the days that Noah built his ship, only a few were saved, eight to be exact. 1 Peter 3:19-20 (TM)*

The illustration of Noah reminds us of three things:

- a. If Noah had Christ with him, so do we.
- b. If Noah didn't have to produce results neither do we.
- c. If Noah could handle the insults and the persecution so can we.

MAIN IDEA: **BE READY TO SHARE YOUR HOPE.**

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