

# STRANGERS & EXILES



## CHRIST'S PEOPLE IN A POST-CHRISTIAN WORLD

**Good in Exile**– 1 Peter 3:13-17

October 22, 2023

As 1 Peter continues, the author's attention shifts to focus on the suffering of God's people whilst they live in exile. 'Who is there to harm you?', Peter asks. *How would you answer?*

In this message, Lewis Roderick seeks to paint a realistic picture of the opposition we might face in a Post-Christian society, and shows us that, despite this, through a commitment to good works, the Kingdom of God will still advance.

[If you're working through these in a group, jump straight to *Apply*]

For personal reflection/community discussion

**Read** – Read the passage in its context several times. Read it slow enough to understand what God is saying through it.

- What ideas or words are emphasised, repeated or related in this passage?
- In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage? (Try to summarise these verses in 10 words or less)

**Examine** – Next, try to understand the specifics of what the passage is communicating.

- What do you notice about God? What has he done/is he doing in these verses?
- What do you learn about Jesus and his gospel from this passage?
- What does it reveal about people?
- How do you think the writer wanted his reader to respond to these words?

**Apply** - After seeking to understand God's Word in this passage, consider how he intends to use it in your heart and life today.

- "Who is there to harm you?" Peter asks. How would you answer that question? Which of the three outworkings of living in a post-Christian society have you experienced? (ignored as irrelevant / marginalisation / demonisation)
- Does a post-Christian landscape frighten you? Why? What gospel truths might counter your fears?
- What hurt is the Lord allowing you to consistently see in the lives of those around you? What difference might you be able to make?
- Peter seems to imply that people will ask questions prompted by our lives. Stop and pray specifically that the Lord would lead those in your life to ask of the hope within you.