

HOPE IN SUFFERING

1 Peter 3:13-22



THE PARADOX OF BLESSING THROUGH SUFFERING

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?
But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed.

1 PETER 3:13-14

Peter is painting a picture of Christians who are so committed to doing good that it becomes their defining characteristic.

The suffering has meaning because it's connected to something greater.

THE PRINCIPLE OF SETTING APART CHRIST AS LORD

...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy,

1 PETER 3:15

Who is truly the Lord of my life?

**When Christ is Lord in our hearts, even the
threat of death loses its ultimate power.**

THE PREPARATION TO ALWAYS READY WITH GENTLENESS AND RESPECT

**always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason
for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,**

1 PETER 3:15

This isn't about winning arguments. It's about explaining hope.

THE POWER OF A GOOD CONSCIENCE

having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

1 PETER 3:16

Peter is saying that one of our greatest defenses against opposition is simply living with integrity.

**When we live with a clear conscience,
false accusations lose their power.**

THE PASSION OF CHRIST'S VICTORY: OUR FOUNDATION

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

1 PETER 3:18-22

We follow a risen, reigning Christ who has conquered every power that opposes us.

THE PLEDGE OF A GOOD CONSCIENCE

...now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

1 PETER 3:21

Our identity is no longer tied to what people think of us or do to us.

Our conscience is clear, not because we're perfect, but because we're forgiven.

LIVING THE TRUTH

- 1. We settle the lordship question.**
 - 2. We cultivate hope that demands an explanation.**
 - 3. We prepare our defense.**
 - 4. We maintain gentleness and respect.**
 - 5. We guard our conscience.**
 - 6. We rest in Christ's victory.**
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