

HOW ARE WE TO RESPOND TO SUFFERING FOR DOING WHAT IS RIGHT?

GETTING THE HEART OF THE MATTER: Part 1

1Peter 3:13-15a

I. UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE BLESSED IF WE SUFFER FOR THE SAKE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (13-14a, Matthew 5:10-12)

- A. Realize suffering for doing what is good is not the absolute norm (13)

- B. **Yet if God should will you should suffer for doing right, you are blessed** (14a)
 - 1. In context, what does this suffering look like?

 - 2. In context, what does this blessing look like?

II. WHEN YOU SUFFER, DO NOT LET FEAR OF MAN RULE YOUR HEART OR LET YOURSELF BE SHAKEN (14b)

III. BUT RATHER WHEN SUFFERING, FEAR THE LORD CHRIST AND LET HIM RULE YOUR HEART, knowing that He might just use your right responses as the foundation for redemptive opportunities (15-17)

- A. ***Continually set apart Christ as the Lord of your heart...***
 - 1. ***...realizing He is in control*** not those who seek harm you (15a)

NEXT WEEK --- The Redemptive Outcome

Continually set apart Christ as the Lord of your heart...

- 2. ***...being always ready in advance*** to make a case to those who ask ***you to give an account for the hope that is in you***, yet with gentleness and fear (15)

- 3. ***...holding on to a good conscience*** (i.e. don't sin), so that in the very thing you are slandered for (your good behave in Christ), might cause those who revile to be shamed (16)

- B. Realizing if the Lord wills it, it is better to suffer for right than wrong (17)

IV. UNDERSTAND THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT JESUS DID TO BRING ABOUT OUR SALVATION, and we have been called to follow in His footsteps (18, 2:21)