

1 Peter 3:13-17 (ESV)



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PREPARED TO RESPOND:

YOUR

SUFFERING,

THEIR SALVATION

Sermon Notes

1 Peter 3:13–17 (ESV)

¹³Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?

¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, 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,

¹⁶having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

May 24, 2026

(Answer key located on the last page)

I. The Responsibility to Pursue Good Without Fear | 1 Peter 3:13

What does “zealous” mean here?

Someone who is _____ — not halfway committed, but all-_____.

Peter’s promise: When you live within the _____ of God, you are under the _____ of God.

Application: Identify one situation this week where doing right will cost you something. Decide NOW — before the pressure hits — what you will do.

II. The Responsibility to Anchor Your Heart in Christ as Lord | 1 Peter 3:14–15

The Greek word for “blessed” is _____. It describes the deep, _____ joy of someone living in the _____ of God.

Peter says “always BE PREPARED.” This is not emergency-only. This is a _____.

The hope in you is not “I hope things get better.” It is: “I know _____ and I am not afraid.”

Application: Tonight, take 5 minutes to pray: “Lord, who in my life needs to hear about my hope in You?” Write that name down.

III. The Responsibility to Answer with Gentleness and Respect | 1 Peter 3:16

“Gentleness” speaks of humble _____ — not weakness, but controlled, _____ power.

“Respect” means we treat the person in front of us with _____ — not contempt.

A good conscience is the result of _____ what you preach.

Answer Key

I. The Responsibility to Pursue Good Without Fear

intensely devoted | but all-in
will | protection |

II. The Responsibility to Anchor Your Heart in Christ as Lord

makarios | unshakable smile
lifestyle | who holds my future

III. The Responsibility to Answer with Gentleness and Respect

strength | loving | dignity | living

IV. The Responsibility to Trust God's Sovereign Will in Suffering

wrong | right | peace

The Good News

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Romans 5:1)

The Bad News

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
(Romans 3:23)

The Ugly News

For the wages of sin is death, ... (Romans 6:23a)

The Great News

... but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 6:23a)

Guess What?

You can become a Christian right now and experience salvation and the gift of eternal life through God's Son the Lord Jesus Christ! Simply Pray this Prayer Right Now! **"God thank you for Jesus Christ who died on the cross for my sins.**

Thank you for receiving what Jesus did for me on the cross as payment for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins. Right now I accept Jesus into my heart and ask that he become my Savior and Lord! Amen!"

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. (Romans 10:9-10)

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