

ALWAYS PREPARED
1 PETER 3:13-18 / 10-2-19 / WED

I. FIRST, REMEMBER THE REWARD OF WITHSTANDING PERSECUTION.

- A. Peter says there is a blessing or reward for being persecuted—3:13-14.
- B. He will say this again—4:14.
- C. Jesus likewise promises a reward—Matt. 5:10-12.
- D. This refers to an eternal not temporal reward that awaits us.

II. SECOND, REVERE THE LORD TO WITHSTAND PERSECUTION.

- A. Peter says to be prepared for persecution by being sure that Christ is on the throne of your life—3:15a.

1 Peter 3:15a

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord....

- B. Bill Bright was an American evangelist who died in 2003. In 1951 at the University of California, Los Angeles he founded Campus Crusade for Christ as a ministry for university students. In 1952 he wrote The Four Spiritual Laws a soul winner's pamphlet. In 1979 he produced the film Jesus.
 - 1. In the witnessing booklet, The Four Spiritual Laws, he illustrates the throne inside each person....
 - 2. Peter's point is the Christ must be on the throne of our life if we are to withstand persecution.

III. THIRD, KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE TO WITHSTAND PERSECUTION.

- A. Do you know what you believe and would you be able to tell this to someone else?—3:15b.

1 Peter 3:15b

...Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.....

- B. We should share our faith in a non-argumentative way—3:15c.

1 Peter 3:15c

...But do this with gentleness and respect.

IV. FOURTH, KEEP A *CLEAR* CONSCIENCE DURING PERSECUTION.

- A. It's better to suffer for doing good than for doing bad—3:16-17.
- B. This is because a guilty conscience is harder to defend when being persecuted—1 John 3:21.

V. FIFTH, FOLLOW CHRIST'S EXAMPLE DURING PERSECUTION.

- A. Jesus is our example of how to face persecution—3:18.
- B. Peter has said this before—2:21.
- C. Peter will say it again—4:1.
- D. Notice what Christ's suffering accomplished according to Peter in verse 18.
 - 1. **"Suffered once for sins"**—unlike Temple sacrifices, Jesus' sacrifice was sufficient to pay for our sins—I Cor. 15:3.
 - 2. **"The righteous for the unrighteous"**—Christ vicariously died for us or in our place—Romans 6:23.
 - 3. **"To bring us to God"**—Christ brought us into God's presence as a perfect High Priest—Mat. 27:51.