

# Impact 3:16

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## Blessings For Sufferings

(I Pt 3:13-17)

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
  - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons from 3:16 that should have an impact on our lives.
  - a. Last week we looked at “The Mystery Of Godliness.”
    - i. Why the proper motivation was for teachers...heavenly wisdom.
  - b. This week we are going to look at “Putting People To Shame.”
    - i. **I Pt 3:15-16** “but 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, 16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.”<sup>1</sup>
3. Background to our text.
  - a. Peter starts writing concerning Christian relationships in chapter 2 and continues into chapter 3.
    - i. The relationship with the pagan world (2:11-12)
    - ii. The relationship with the state (2:13-17)
    - iii. The relationship with the household (2:18-3:7)
    - iv. The relationship with the church (3:8-12)
  - b. Peter then changes direction and starts writing concerning the Christian suffering.
    - i. Peter points out that there are blessings to be found in the righteous suffering of the saints.
      1. **I Pt 3:13-17**
4. It is here we find our text for today.
  - a. Let us today see what we must do to be blessed by God as it pertains to suffering for Christ.

### I. We Must Sanctify Christ

- A. The word sanctify means...
  1. “...to set apart for God, to sanctify, to make a person or thing the opposite of koinos, “common”; it is translated “Hallowed,” with reference to the name of God the Father in the Lord’s Prayer...” (Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words. Nashville, TN: T. Nelson.)
  2. “to feel reverence for or to honor as holy—‘to hallow, to regard as holy, to honor as holy.’” (Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains. New York: United Bible Societies.)

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<sup>1</sup> All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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- B. To sanctify Christ we must...
1. Seek Christ out.
    - i. **Mt 7:7-8** “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.”
    - ii. **Rv 3:20** “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.”
  2. Listen to Christ.
    - i. **Mt 17:5** “He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.””
    - ii. **Jn 12:48** “The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.”
  3. Obey Christ.
    - i. **Jn 14:15** “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”
    - ii. **I Co 9:21** “To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law.”
  4. Place Christ first.
    - i. **Mt 6:33** “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”
    - ii. **Mt 19:28-29** “Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life.”
- C. Thus...
1. If we want to be blessed by God when we suffer for Christ we must make sure we have sanctified Christ with our hearts.

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### II. We Must Always Be Ready To Defend Christ

- A. If we honor Christ with our hearts as holy we will have no issue defending Him
  - 1. It is only when we are 100% in that we do not waver.
    - i. In fact it is a mark of maturity to zealously “contend earnestly for the faith” and to “make a defense...for the hope that is in you.”
  - 2. If we have no issue defending Christ we will be ready to defend Him.
    - i. How do we properly defend Christ however?
- B. To make a biblical defense for Christ we must...
  - 1. Have a hope in Christ based in suffering.
    - i. **Ro 5:1-5** “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”
  - 2. Have a respect for Christ’s creation and their lost souls.
    - i. This is done by our speech being respectful.
      - a. **Co 4:6** “Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.”
    - ii. This is done by our conduct being gentle.
      - a. **Ti 3:1-2** “Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, 2 to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.”
    - iii. This is done by our logical and rational delivery.
      - a. **Is 1:18** “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.”
  - 3. Have a good conscience.
    - i. This is vital to defending Christ because...
      - a. People will blame you for their biblical short comings.
        - 1. “So your saying I’m going to Hell if I died right now because I wasn’t dunked in water?”
          - i. Though I have never told this to someone it often is asked of me because the Bible makes that clear for the unfaithful.
        - 2. “So your saying I’m going to Hell if I don’t divorce my wife and destroy my family?”
          - i. Though I have never told this to someone it often is asked of me when one finds out their marriage is unbiblical because of their divorce for reasons other than fornication.

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3. "So your saying I'm going to Hell if I don't stop listening to contemporary Christian music on the radio?"
    - i. Though I have never told this to someone it often is asked of me when this practice is brought up and found to be sinful.
  4. "So your saying I'm going to Hell because I didn't come much on Sunday evenings or Wednesday evenings?"
    - i. Though I have never told this to someone it often is asked of me when their neglecting of the assembly is brought to their attention.
    - ii. Having a good conscience allows us to boldly teach truth.
      - a. Why, because it doesn't matter what they blame you for saying because you know you have been reasonable, gentle, and respectful.
- C. Thus...
1. If we want to be blessed by God when we suffer for Christ we must make sure we are not only ready to defend Christ by willing to defend Christ.

### CONCLUSION

1. Brethren there is a truth that cannot be shaken and that is that God takes care of His family.
  - a. That means He loves us and thus actively seeks the best interest for our souls.
  - b. Let us make sure we love God in return and that we seek to defend God with our whole hearts in a Christ-like love so that it matters not what others say concerning us because our conscience is clear.
2. Question: Are you receiving blessings from God because you have sanctified Christ and defended Him or are you in need of or find yourself being disciplined for not doing such?
  - a. My hope and prayer is that you have made the conscience choice to sanctify Christ and defend Him.
  - b. You might not be able to answer in the positive here so the why not make the change now?
3. Invitation
  - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
    - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

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- b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
- i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
  - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
  - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
  - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
  - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
  - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**