

# *Suffering for Right and Wrong*

## **I Peter 3:13-17**

I Peter 12

### **Introduction**

How should Christians act when they are falsely accused or unfairly persecuted?

This passage gives us six ways to act.

**(Read I Peter 3:13-17)**

### **I. Considered Yourself Blessed**

Albert Barnes explains it this way. “not that they would find positive enjoyment in persecution on account of righteousness, but that they were to regard it as a blessed condition; that is, as a condition that might be favorable to salvation; and they were not therefore, on the whole, to regard it as an evil.”

In other words, we will not enjoy the persecution, but we can regard it as a blessed condition because we know we will be rewarded for it.

So it is not entirely evil. Satan may consider it to be this way but...

Romans 8:28- ***We know that in all things God works for good with those who love him, those whom he has called according to his purpose.***

### **II. Be Unafraid**

**(Read vs 13-14)**

Who can really harm the Christian?

You are in the palm of God's hand. He has your days numbered. Neither Satan nor anyone else can have the least little effect on that.

Therefore, there is never any reason for fear on the part of the Christian.

### III. **Worship Christ As Lord**

**(Read vs. 15)**

Knowing that Jesus really is Lord, we can and should always worship Him as such.

Isaiah 8:13- ***Remember that I, the LORD Almighty, am holy; I am the one you must fear.***

So, always honor and worship Him- no matter what your circumstances.

### IV. **Be Ready To Give An Answer For The Hope That Is In You**

**(Read vss. 15-16a)**

Be always willing and be always able to give people the truth about Jesus.

To anyone. Friends or enemies.

With respect. No matter how they are treating you.

Example: **(Acts 16:25-28)**

How did Paul treat his enemy, the jailer? (With respect)

Was he willing and able to tell the jailer how to be saved?

**(Acts 16:30-31)**

We must always be the same, no matter what our circumstances.

## **V. Maintain A Good Conscience**

**(Read vs. 16)**

Keep your conscience clear. Why?

***This way you will make people ashamed for saying bad things about your good conduct as a follower of Christ.***

Finally...

## **VI. Continue In Good Conduct**

**(Read vs. 17)**

Why should we always try to continue to be good?

The Message Translation says it this way: ***It's better to suffer for doing good, if that's what God wants, than to be punished for doing bad.***

Look folks, if you do bad things, you should be punished- and there will be no reward for that.

However, if you are doing good- or what God wants- and you are punished for this, you will be rewarded.

So keep on doing what God wants- even if it means you might get into trouble.

## **Conclusion**

Be immersed in the Word.

### **(Read vs 15)**

This is not speaking a suffering as an evil does, but suffering for good conduct.

### **(Read vss, 16-17)**

You may be slandered, but you should never be rightly accused of doing evil.

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## **Introduction**

How should Christians act when they are falsely accused or unfairly persecuted?

This passage gives us six ways to act.

### **I. Considered Yourself Blessed (Romans 8:28)**

In other words, we will not \_\_\_\_\_ the persecution, but we can regard it as a blessed condition because we know we will be rewarded for it.

### **II. Be Unafraid**

You are in the palm of God's hand. He has your days \_\_\_\_\_. Neither Satan nor anyone else can have the least little effect on that.

### **III. Worship Christ As Lord (Isaiah 8:13)**

Knowing that Jesus really is Lord, we can and should always \_\_\_\_\_ Him as such.

### **IV. Be Ready To Give An Answer For The Hope That Is In You (Acts 16:25-28, 30-31)**

Be always willing and be always able to give people the \_\_\_\_\_ about Jesus.

To anyone. Friends or enemies. With \_\_\_\_\_. No matter how they are treating you.

### **V. Maintain A Good Conscience**

Keep your conscience \_\_\_\_\_.

### **VI. Continue In Good Conduct**

Look folks, if you do bad things, you should be punished- and there will be \_\_\_\_\_ reward for that.

However, if you are doing good- or what \_\_\_\_\_ wants- and you are punished for this, you will be rewarded.

## **Conclusion**

Be \_\_\_\_\_ in the Word.

**Possible Answers:** immersed, respect, enjoy, numbered, clear, no, worship, truth, God

