

The Hope That Is In A Christian

TEXT: 1 Peter 3:13-16

INTRODUCTION:

- A. 1 Peter WRITTEN TO PREPARE CHRISTIANS FOR A TIME OF STRESS.
 - 1. He has dealt with the great hope that sustains us.
 - 2. He has told us how to prepare.
 - 3. And given instructions how to live before others (**2:9, 11-12**).
- B. INSTRUCTIONS NOT GIVEN TO HELP AVOID TRIAL - IT WILL COME!
- C. HOW WILL WE "GIVE ANSWER?" HOW CAN WE?
 - I. **"BE ZEALOUS OF THAT WHICH IS GOOD"** (**verse 13**).
 - A. GOD ACKNOWLEDGES RIGHT IN US (**verse 12; 1 John 3:7, 10; Acts 10:34-35**).
 - B. RIGHTEOUSNESS IS OUR ID MARK (**2 Timothy 2:19**).
 - C. BUSY YOURSELF - OUR PREOCCUPATION (**Titus 2:14; 3:1**).
 - D. **Romans 8:31; Philippians 4:13; 1 Peter 3:12-13**.
 - II. **"FEAR NOT THEIR FEAR"** (**verse 14**).
 - A. THE LAST ENEMY (**Hebrews 9:27**).
 - 1. Sorrow and hopelessness (**1 Thessalonians 4:13; John 11:32-35, 39**).
 - 2. Bondage (**Hebrews 2:14**).
 - B. DIE FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE? (**Matthew 10:28; 1 Peter 1:3**).
 - III. **"SANCTIFY IN YOUR HEARTS CHRIST AS LORD"** (**verse 15**).
 - A. DECIDE JESUS IS THE BOSS! (**Colossians 3:17**).
 - B. A COMMITMENT IS REQUIRED!
 - 1. Jesus' example (**2:21-24; 4:1-2**).
 - 2. We have already decided! (**4:19**).
 - C. WE MUST BE READY TO SET ASIDE ALL DISTRACTIONS (**Hebrews 12:1-2; Matthew 6:24**).
 - D. THERE IS A COST (**Luke 14:25-28**).
 - 1. Are we ready to pay it?
 - 2. It is worth everything (**1 Peter 3:17; Matthew 5:10-12; Romans 8:18; 1 Corinthians 6:20**).

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IV. "BEING READY ALWAYS TO GIVE ANSWER" (verse 15).

- A. "WHY?" THE QUESTION WE MUST ANSWER.
- B. COMMITMENT DERIVES FROM CONVICTION (2 Timothy 1:12).
- C. CONVICTION IS BASE ON EVIDENCE (Romans 10:17).
 - 1. What Jesus did (John 3:1-2; 20:30-31; Acts 2:22-23).
 - 2. What happened to him (Acts 2:23-24, 32).

CONCLUSION:

- A. GOD HAS GIVEN US A POWERFUL TOOL IN 1 Peter.
- B. ARE YOU SUFFERING? (1 Peter 3:13-15; 4:19).
- C. ARE YOU HEAVY LADEN? (Matthew 11:28-30).