

1st Peter

Christian Life Assembly


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Context

- **1st Peter 1:6** So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, *even though you must endure many trials* for a little while. **7** These trials will show that your faith is genuine.

 - **1st Peter 2:19** For God is pleased when, conscious of his will, *you patiently endure unjust treatment*. **20** Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong. But *if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently*, God is pleased with you.
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Context

- **Given their conditions of persecution and displacement, when Peter speaks of what it means to suffer for one's faith, it is more than an academic exercise.**
 - **And given our place in history, we should think of it as more than academic as well.**
 - **When more aggressive persecution begins, we will need to know, and be comforted by, what Peter's audience knew.**
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1st Peter 3:13-17

- **13 Now, who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good? 14 But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats. 15 Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. 16 But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. 17 Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong!**
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1st Peter 3:13-17

- **13 Now, who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good? - great question and we probably think the answer should be “no one”.**
 - **Generally speaking, people, even lost people, do not seek to punish good behavior.**
 - **There are, however, exceptions – Jesus is the primary exception. (did only good and was crucified)**
 - **And then there are groups like ISIS who do not care about your works, no matter how good, if you are a Christian you are targeted for death.**
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1st Peter 3:13-17

- That said, we should not go by this principle too quickly – *good works generally do not incur wrath.*
 - There are two grades of those outside of Christ – there is your ordinary, run of the mill, unsaved person who is a relatively ‘good’ person. These folks generally pose no threat to us.
 - Then we have those who are actively engaged in warfare with the Christian. Fortunately, for now, in our country those are few, but the ones that exist do pose a threat to us.
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1st Peter 3:13-17

- **14 But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats.**
 - **So Peter goes on to say that even though good works should not incur wrath, they sometimes do.**
 - **And when you are mistreated, or even killed because you are serving Christ, God will still reward you. (this only makes sense if there is more to life than the here and now)**
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1st Peter 3:13-17

- 15 Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.
 - Instead of worrying about what might happen to us for serving Christ, we should worship – *don't worry, do worship!*
 - From verse #15 I think it is easy to see the link between the godliness we exhibit and the chances that someone will ask us why we believe.
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1st Peter 3:13-17

- The NLT reads - 15 Instead, *you must worship Christ as Lord of your life.* And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.
 - The NKJV reads - 15 *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts,* and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you.
 - The NIV reads - 15 *But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord.* Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.
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1st Peter 3:13-17

- **Worship, sanctify, and revere are the words the translators used to describe the extent to which we are to regard Christ.**
 - **When we get up each day we should think – The reason I exist is to glorify (reveal) God and one of the ways I reveal Him to others is in my worship.**
 - **If He is seen as the preeminent One in my life – if He is more important than my life itself, that speaks volumes to those around us.**
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1st Peter 3:13-17

- **If we consult Him when we have a big decision to make, we show that we trust Him.**
 - **If we obey Him when the flesh wants to indulge itself, we affirm His wisdom.**
 - **If we speak of Him when asked about our priorities, we show that we prize Him.**
 - **If we exalt Him with our voices and lives, we show that we value Him.**
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1st Peter 3:13-17

- **Peter specifically says, “be ready to give an answer” for why we believe in Jesus.**
 - **Sounds like a homework assignment to me – sounds like I should give some thought to exactly why I believe, so that when asked, I will have a convincing answer.**
 - **So I ask you – why do you believe?**
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Why I Believe

- I know in my heart, soul, and mind that there is more to life than the time we have now. (and the bible confirms this)
 - I know in my heart, soul, and mind that there must be a creator, or a supreme being, or a god that created all that we see. (and the bible confirms this)
 - I know in my heart, soul, and mind that there must be an accounting one day to whatever higher power there happens to be. (and the bible confirms this)
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Why I Believe

- I know in my heart, soul, and mind that my behaviors and deeds have not always been good. (and the bible confirms this)
 - I know in my heart, soul, and mind that there must be justice meted out somewhere, sometime. (and the bible confirms this)
 - So it seems to me that I have a problem that needs to be solved. (and the bible confirms this)
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Why I Believe

- **So if the bible confirms everything that cries out from my DNA, why would I not believe what it says about a savior?**
 - **And, since I recognize that my deeds are not what they ought to be, I really have no better, or even another choice, but to trust Jesus.**
 - **In the end, I have no better option than Jesus, and by experience I have come to know that He is real.**
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Why I Believe

- From experience I know to opt for another way to Heaven, whatever that religion or path may be, always involves my works in one form or another.
 - Well, I've already disqualified my works by observing them.
 - So if works cannot save me, then something or someone else must, and that is where Jesus meets my need for a Savior.
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1st Peter 3:13-17

- **16 But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.**
 - **So when we are asked about our hope, and we give our thoughtful answer, we are to be gentle and respectful.**
 - **Sadly, we sometimes testify in ways that are condescending, haughty, and harsh.**
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1st Peter 3:13-17

- **If you think about it, if we just applied the ‘golden rule’ to our witness, we would fulfill the requirements that Peter lays out.**
- **The longer we are saved, the harder it is to remember what it was like to be ‘dead in our sins’.**
- **We are not salespeople, but we should approach our witness like a salesperson who is trying to land the big sale – gentle, respectful, and persuasive.**






1st Peter 3:13-17

- **We should understand when we share our faith that we really do not have the power to convert anyone.**
 - **Most of the people we will witness to in our lifetime will not embrace what we have to say.**
 - **When given the choice between using your own words, or God's word, always choose the bible.**
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1st Peter 3:13-17

- 17 Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, *if that is what God wants*, than to suffer for doing wrong!
 - Here we see again what we've discussed before in our 1st Peter study – as hard as it may be to come to terms with, it is sometimes God's will for us that we suffer.
 - With God, it seems to always be about eternity, and rarely about today.
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1st Peter 3:13-17

- **So at some point we must come face to face with this question – how much do we trust Him?**
 - **And to be frank, it really doesn't matter how much we trust Him or don't trust Him, He will always do what it is good and right.**
 - **The advantage to trusting Him, is that we can actually experience joy in the worst of circumstances.**
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Questions

