

The Blessing of Living with Suffering II (1 Peter 3:16,17)

Opportunity for Witness in Word (3:13-15)

- 1) We are called to repay evil with good & we receive good for evil
- 2) Peter's good exchange: the fear of man for the fear of God
- 3) Peter called us to 'set Christ apart in our hearts as Lord'
- 4) Hope in Christ is the substance of our courage and our witness

Opportunity For Witness in Life (3:16,17)

- The witness of a good conscience is crucial for the witness of a good word
- Conscience: a person's 'inner awareness of the moral quality of his actions'
- John Brown, defined conscience: the human mind in relation to God & duty
- Sinner's conscience must be brought under - saving work of Christ's redemption

A. Obedience for Conscience's Sake

- The clear conscience of a justified sinner indeed frees him for witness
- The impact of his witness will require the outward evidence of a consistent life
- A clear conscience gives stamina & faithfulness to a Christian's witness.
- The believer knows the malicious slander of evil doers is not true, he can trust God

B. Christ Alone, the Source of a Good Conscience

- Peter, aware of tender consciences believers may have, he looks to Christ (18)
- Peter is quick to use Paul's well known phrase: your good behavior in Christ (16)
- Being therefore 'in Christ', we have life, Holy Spirit joins us to him in holiness
- Through God's abundant grace in our lives we show the reality of salvation

C. Suffering for Good and not for Evil

- Peter summarizes "For it is better to suffer for doing good than for doing evil (17)
- It's better to suffer the trials as Christians for doing good rather than doing evil
- As followers of Christ, we should suffer as Christ suffered for a good cause