

## I PETER 3:12-15

Intro: In our last study of I Peter, we were looking at the Behavior Pattern of a Biblical Christian. When we came to verse 10-12, we saw that the Biblical Believer wants "the good life". We learned that the "good life" consists of 1. *The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous*—His \_\_\_\_\_ is on the Biblical Christian; 2. *His ears are open unto their prayers*—He listens to and answers their prayers; 3. *The face of the Lord is against them that do evil*—His vengeance will be against the wicked. With these three thoughts in mind, Peter instructs the "scattered" believers to look at \_\_\_\_\_ considering these three truths. His message is this: "the right response to underserved suffering results in blessing from the Lord." **The Bible Knowledge Commentary**

I. Understand the \_\_\_\_\_ meaning of harm and suffering, and interpret life accordingly **Vs 13-14**

A. **Who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? Vs 13**

1. **Harm-** to treat in an evil manner, to intentionally \_\_\_\_\_, upset deliberately
  - a. *Ac 16:28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.*
  - b. *Ac 12:1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.*
  - c. *Ac 7:6 And God spake on this wise, That his seed should sojourn in a strange land; and that they should bring them into bondage, and entreat them evil*  
*four*  
*hundred years.*
  - d. *Ac 7:19 The same dealt subtilly with our kindred, and evil entreated our fathers, so that they cast out their young children, to the end they might not live.*
  - e. *Ac 14:2 But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren.*
2. **If ye be followers of that which is good**
  - a. **Followers**—a companion with; going in the same direction as... (3 John 11 *Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.*)
  - b. **That which is good**
    - (1) **Good**—the \_\_\_\_\_ of evil; that which is good by God's standard
    - (2) **Good**—Mt 19:17 *And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.*
    - (3) **Evil/Harm**— Mt 13:19 *When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.*
3. If one earnestly follows God and desires the good things of God, he/she has the protection of God from the \_\_\_\_\_ of satan.

B. **But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror,**

**neither be troubled; Vs 14**

1. Although an obedient believer can be assured of the protective hand of God, this does not \_\_\_\_\_ they will never suffer for their godly behavior and lifestyle.
2. **But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake**

- a. **But and if**-nevertheless, there can and \_\_\_\_\_ will be occasions
  - b. **Ye suffer**-experience \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. **For righteousness' sake**-for living a god-like life; for doing that which may be \_\_\_\_\_, but is right before the Lord and is obedient to the Scripture
3. **Happy are ye, and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled**
- a. **Happy are ye**-For the \_\_\_\_\_ believer, there is to be an inward peace and lack of \_\_\_\_\_ of those who are causing the suffering
  - b. **Be not afraid of their terror**
    - (1) **Afraid**-consumed and \_\_\_\_\_ by fear and terror
    - (2) **Terror**-fierceness; \_\_\_\_\_ actions meant to strike terror in the heart of the recipient
  - c. **Neither be troubled**-don't allow yourself to become disturbed, unsettled, and \_\_\_\_\_ God
- C. The believer is not guaranteed that they will not suffer, but they are guaranteed the abiding \_\_\_\_\_ of God always, and the ultimate deliverance of God, either at the time of the suffering or in eternity. Therefore, the believer must find his/her happiness and security in the \_\_\_\_\_, not in their circumstances.

II. **But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that**

**asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Vs 15**

A. **Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts Vs 15a**

- 1. **Sanctify**-to set apart, to put in a place of \_\_\_\_\_ honor and reverence
- 2. **The Lord God**-Jehovah God
- 3. **In your hearts**-within your own \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Set God apart from everything and everyone else in your life and place Him in the place of honor, prestige, and confidence, to encourage you to be God-focused and not event or \_\_\_\_\_ focused. As you deal with the difficulties of life, God's presence will be at the center of that focus.

B. **Be ready to give an answer for your hope Vs 15b**

- 1. The answer is required because people are asking why, during difficulty or crisis, the believer is showing such \_\_\_\_\_ of mind and action, and accepting the difficulty with such great \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. **Give the answer with meekness and fear**
  - a. Not losing sight of the fact that our \_\_\_\_\_ is in the Lord alone
  - b. Not losing sight of the truth that we are totally undeserving of God's \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Not losing sight of the reality that without God our situation would be \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. This answer cannot be given unless there is a \_\_\_\_\_ within our heart Cf 1:3-5

Concl: God has not promised that life will never be \_\_\_\_\_ for the believer. He has promised that He will never leave us or forsake us. He has also promised that this life will be over sooner than we think and in eternity we have an inheritance awaiting us that is ours alone. In eternity, the challenges we have faced here on earth as believers will seem so \_\_\_\_\_.