

1 Peter Lesson #13, Chapter 3:13-22

Be sure to ask the Lord for His help as you do your lesson.

1. What rhetorical question does Peter ask in verse 13 and what is the implied answer?
2. Define *zealous* [Strong's #2207 (NIV *eager*; NKJV *become followers*)] from verse 13.
3. In verse 13 Peter asks, *And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good?* Give some examples of things that are good from the previous verses. How would your eagerness to do good be a protection to you?
4. Would you apply the phrase *zealous for what is good* to yourself? What are some ways you'd like to grow in this area? How would you begin? What kind of attitude or mindset do you need to have to be zealous for what is good?
5. In verse 14 Peter states that *even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed*. Though he doesn't directly explain how or why you are blessed for this type of suffering, verses 14-22 reveal the answer. What do you discover in those verses?
6. Peter's next statement reveals that though doing good to others will generally keep them from harming you, it is not a guarantee. What two ways does God want you to respond in persecution (verse 14)?

7. The NKJV and the NASB give the best translation of Isaiah 8:12 as Peter quotes it in verse 14: “Do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled.” *Wuest’s Word Studies in the Greek New Testament* provides a helpful, literal translation of this verse: “Be not affected with fear by the fear which they strive to inspire in your heart.” What truths from the following verses (that Peter has already written to his readers) would help you to not be troubled or fearful of intimidation? See 1 Pet. 1:3-9; 2:5-6, 12, 19-25; 3:10-12.

8. Over and over again the Scriptures urge us not to fear. Why? What does God want you to understand about His character that will help you not to fear? See Deut. 31:8; Is. 41:10-14; 51:12-15; Matt. 10:28-31; and Jn. 14:1.

9. What actions does Peter urge us to take in verses 15-16 when we face suffering or intimidation?

10. How would setting Christ apart as Lord in your heart be an antidote to fear?

11. What are some ways you can be ready to make a defense for the hope that is within you? (Do you need to take advantage of any of the ways you just listed?)

12. If someone were to ask you about your *hope*, what would you say?

13. Notice that we are to defend the faith with gentleness [Strong's #4240 (NKJV *meekness*)] and reverence [Strong's #5401 (NKJV *fear*)]. Define these words. Based upon all that we have studied so far, why is it necessary to defend the faith in this way?

14. What 2 kinds of persecution are we as believers likely to go through (verse 16)? How can you put those who persecute you to shame (verse 16)?

15. We might find it difficult to obey these commands so Peter adds some encouragement for us in verse 17. What is it?

16. *If God should will it so*—that little phrase implies a submission to whatever God may bring our way because it is His best for us, even if it means suffering for doing what is right. It is understanding that God may allow difficulty and trial and pain to beset us because it is the wisest and most loving way. Write out a prayer of commitment and trust to accept whatever the Lord may bring your way, if He should will it so.

All the way my Savior leads me –
What have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt His tender mercy,
Who through life has been my guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,
Here by faith in Him to dwell!
For I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.
Fanny Crosby

But whether we see beneficial results in this life or not, we are still called upon to trust God that in His love He will do what is best for us and in His wisdom He knows how to bring it about. Jerry Bridges, *Trusting God*

17. Okay, here comes the tough section. Ready? First, remember that verses 18-22 follow the preceding verses without any interruption of thought or subject matter. That means the clues to interpreting and understanding these difficult verses are found within this section. What has Peter been discussing in the preceding verses (verses 13-17)?

18. Who was our best example of that (verse 18)? What did he do (verses 18-19)? From a commentary or Bible dictionary, see what you can find out about the Greek word used as *proclamation* [Strong's #2784 (NKJV, NIV *preached*)].

19. Who were the spirits in prison? See verses 19-20; Gen. 6:2-5; II Pet. 2:4-5; Jude 6. What did Jesus say to them? Why couldn't Jesus' message to the spirits in prison have been a salvation message? [Hint: What had He just accomplished? See verse 18.]

20. Now getting back to the context of the passage: Why are verses 18-20 included in this section on suffering? What is Peter trying to communicate to his readers?

21. What would have happened to the 8 people if they had been in the water? How were the eight people of verse 20 brought safely through the water?

22. How are we saved from death? See verse 21, also refer to verse 18.

23. It is clear from verse 21 that Peter is not discussing water baptism. So what kind of baptism is he writing about? See also Rom. 6:3-11.

24. How is the resurrection a guarantee that spiritual and physical death will not claim the believer? See 1 Cor. 15:17; Col. 2:11-12; Eph. 2:1, 4-7.

25. Peter writes to encourage the suffering believers that Christ victoriously conquered death and that by calling out to Him in faith they would escape death and walk in newness of life. How would those truths be a help to you during suffering?

26. Make a list of things which this passage teaches us to do in the midst of suffering.

Forward, believer in Christ, to the toils, duties, and trials of another stage of life's journey!
Jesus is enough for them all. Jesus will be with you in them all. Jesus will triumphantly conduct you through them all. Beloved one, live in the constant expectation of soon seeing Jesus face to face; conversing with He whom here below, cheered, comforted, and sweetened many a weary step of your Christian pilgrimage. That moment is speeding on. In a little while and all that now wounds and ruffles, tempts and pollutes, will have disappeared like the foam upon the billow, and you shall eternally repose your weary soul in the bosom of Jesus!

~ "Go and Tell Jesus" by Octavius Winslow