

1 Peter 3:16

December 27, 2007

Text: 1 Peter 3:16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

suffering for righteousness sake responsibly

1 Peter 3:14-15 But and if ye suffer for righteousness? sake, happy [blessed] are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; 15 but sanctify in your hearts Christ as Lord: being ready always **to give answer** to every man that asketh you **a reason concerning the hope that is in you**, yet with meekness and fear

KEEPING THE LORDS COMMANDS = OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Deuteronomy 6:25 And it shall be **our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments** before the LORD our God, **as he hath commanded us.**

THE ELECT ARE CALLED TO SUFFER

1 Peter 2:20-21 For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, **when ye do well** (live righteously), **and suffer for it**, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. 21 For even **hereunto were ye called**: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should **follow his steps**:

CALLED TO INHERIT A BLESSING

1 Peter 3:9 Not rendering evil **for evil**, or railing **for railing**: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye [?the elect pilgrims,? 1:1] are thereunto called, that ye **should inherit a blessing.**

THE KINGDOM

Matthew 25:31,34 When **the Son of man shall come in his glory**, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: 34 **Then** shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, **ye blessed** of my Father, **inherit the kingdom** prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Matthew 5:10 ?**Blessed** are those who have been **persecuted for the sake of righteousness**, (why?) for [because] **theirs is the kingdom of heaven** (that is the blessing ? it belongs to them).

The blessed hope

Titus 2:13 Looking for **the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory** of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus;

Having a good conscience in persecution

1 Peter 3:16 **Having a good conscience**; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

the conscience is an inner witness

Romans 9:1-2 I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, **my conscience also bearing me witness** in the Holy Spirit, 2 That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow **in my heart**.

an inward judge of our actions

Romans 2:15 In that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, **their conscience bearing witness**, and their thoughts alternately **accusing or else defending** them [?or tell them they are doing what is right,? NLT; ?giving them approval,? BBE].

A living honestly

Hebrews 13:18 Pray for us: for we trust we have **a good conscience**, in all things **willing to live honestly**.

Boldness before the persecutors

Acts 23:1 And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, **I have lived in all good conscience before God** until this day.

maintaining a good conscience

Acts 24:16 And herein do **I exercise myself**, to have always **a conscience void of offence** toward God, and toward men.

If we deny him, he also will deny us

2 Timothy 2:12 If we **suffer**, we shall also reign (the kingdom) with him: **if we** (in our response to our sufferings) **deny him, he also will deny us** (from the kingdom):

ashamed of suffering for Christ

Mark 8:38 "For whoever is **ashamed** of Me and My words **in this adulterous and sinful generation**, of him the Son of Man also will be **ashamed** when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

under verbal persecution

1 Peter 3:16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas **they speak evil of you, as of evildoers**, they may be ashamed that **falsely accuse** [present tense] your good conversation in Christ.

Jesus and Paul were called evil doers

John 18:30 They answered and said to him, "If He (Jesus) were not an **evildoer**, we would not have delivered Him up to you."

2 Timothy 2:9 Wherein I suffer trouble, **as an evil doer**, *even* unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.

Putting to shame the persecutors

1 Peter 3:16 Having a good conscience; that [for this purpose], whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, **they may be ashamed** that falsely accuse [present tense] your good conversation [conduct or behavior] in Christ.

Persecutors can change by a good testimony

Mark 15:39 So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that He cried out like this and breathed His last, he said, "Truly this Man was the Son of God!"

Philippians 4:22 All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's household.

Shame can lead to change!

1 Peter 2:12 Having your conversation [conduct, behavior] honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works (obedience to ones conscience), which they shall behold (and be changed), glorify God (1Cor.6:20) in the day of visitation (the day of judgment).