

Doing Right and Being Wronged 1 Peter 3:13-17

1 Peter 3:13-17 (NIV)

Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened." But in your hearts set apart 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. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

## I. A Recognition

Verse 14, 17 – But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

Ephesians 1:3 (NIV)

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."



Sangster's 4 Resolutions:

- I will never complain.
- I will keep my home bright.
- I will count my blessings.
- I will try to turn it to gain.

II. A Refusal

Verse 14 – ...."Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened."

Isaiah 8:12-14 (NIV)

"...and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. But the LORD of hosts, .... Let him be your fear, And he will become a sanctuary."

Psalm 23:4 (ESV)

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."

III. A Reaction

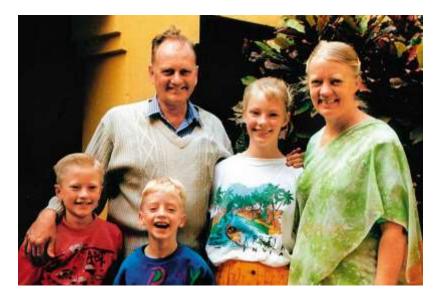
Verse 15, 16 - ... Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander."

II Corinthians 1:10 (NIV)

"He has delivered us from such deadly perils, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us."

IV. A Response

Verse 15 - "In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord."



"I have only one message for the people of India. I'm not bitter. Neither am I angry. But I have one great desire: that each citizen of this country should establish a personal relationship with Jesus Christ who gave his life for their sins ... let us burn hatred and spread the flame of Christ's love." – Gladys Staines