

THE CHURCH IS LEAVING THE BUILDING!

Ready To Give An Answer

1 Peter 3:13-17

ATTENTION:

- Peter begins his letter with amazing promises the Christian enjoys!
³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. ⁵ You are being guarded by God's power through faith for a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.
1 Peter 1:3-5
- Then v. 6 touches on Paul Harvey's "Rest of the story":
⁶ You rejoice in this, even though now for a short time, if necessary, you suffer grief in various trials
1 Peter 1:6
- The conduct of the rejected/persecuted
¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you as strangers and exiles to abstain from sinful desires that wage war against the soul. ¹² Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that when they slander you as evildoers, they will observe your good works and will glorify God on the day he visits.
1 Peter 2:11-12
- The verbal response to rejection's/persecution's questioning
¹³ Who then will harm you if you are devoted to what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear or be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. ¹⁶ Yet do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that when you are accused, those who disparage your good conduct in Christ will be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.
1 Peter 3:13-17

ATTUNE:

- Sounds like the old adage, **"Take it on the chin" for Jesus!**
 - Let the world throw its punches; the fight belongs to the Lord and he promises us eternal victory.
 - We should not let these troubles get the best of us

- We have an eternal glory awaiting us.
- What matters is that we demonstrate the hope in our lives and articulate it to those who do not know.

BODY: The Prepared Answer

ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. v. 15

• WE WILL BE ASKED.

- As we demonstrate the Christian hope in our lives it will cause someone to ask about it.
 - As Christians live righteous lives, the thing that should stand out is our spirit of hope.
 - NOT contempt, arrogance or self-righteousness
 - BUT personal hope!
 - People are not asking, "What's your problem?" but, "What's the reason for their peaceful attitude?"

• TO WHOM ARE WE TO RESPOND?

- Everyone who asks.
 - It may be the person over us wondering why we still do good work when he's making it miserable for us.
 - It may be the neighbor who has observed your family life.
 - It may be a parent/spouse who notices a change in you.
 - Others may ask, "Why do you bless those who insult you?"
 - ...Why do you seem at peace in the middle of hardship?"

• ALWAYS BE PREPARED TO GIVE AN ANSWER.

Being prepared involves 2 things =

1. Know what to say
 2. Be ready to say it.
- Know What To Say
 - Can you articulate your hope?
 - Can you give the reasons for it?
 - "My hope is in Jesus Christ who died for me."
 - "My hope is in Jesus who took away the guilt of my sins."
 - Make your answer simple - the gospel is simple.
 - Give a reason for your personal hope.

- What really matters is that you:
 1. demonstrate a personal hope
 2. articulate your hope
 3. explain the reason for your hope.
- What is your reason?
 - What lead you to become a Christian?
 - *“I was burdened by life and the sin in that life, and Christ offered me the real hope I needed.”*
 - *“When I understood what Christ did for me on the cross...”*
 - *“When I saw the genuine love in a Christian...”*
 - **What’s your story?**

- The other element is Be Ready To Say It.
 - You can know what to say but miss the chance to say it.
 - Don’t miss the opportunity.
 - Pray each day that God will prepare you.
 - Pray while engaged in a conversation
 - They may be brief, only one sentence but say it!
 - Continue to demonstrate your hope, answer the opportunities given. **Just Be Ready!**

- **KNOW HOW TO ANSWER.**

- With gentleness and respect.
 - Do so in a courteous manner that shows real respect and gentleness.
 - Demonstrated your his hope by words and behavior,
- Keeping a clear conscience.
 - A clear conscience about what?
 - If we come away from a conversation desiring to avenge ourselves because the other person got the better of us, we do not have a clear conscience.
 - If we come away feeling triumphant because we got the better of him, we do not have a clear conscience.
 - **BOTTOM LINE:**
Our conversations with others about our faith is not whether we win or lose.
BUT
whether we articulate our personal hope in Christ from a sincere love desiring to bring the other person into that same hope in Christ.

- Actually caring about the person, even the one who is insulting and ridiculing us?
- Do we really love Christ and have a deep hope in our life in Christ?
- Answer yes to both questions = You will be ready with a clear conscience to give an answer to those who ask.

PROJECT: Do You Dare?

People may dismiss our arguments and reasons, but even our enemies will not dismiss our love and our hope.

ACTION: Do You Dare?

May we always be prepared to show both.

LEAD ME TO SOME SOUL TODAY

Lead me to some soul today,
 O teach me, Lord, just what to say;
 Friends of mine are lost in sin,
 And cannot find their way.
 Few there are who seem to care,
 And few there are who pray;
 Melt my heart, and fill my life,
 Give me one soul today.