

## "Faithfully Facing Persecution" (Part 1)

04081PET3.13-14a(75)

### **1 Peter 3:13-14a**

**13** And who is there to harm you if you should be zealous in pursuing good? **14** But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, [you are] blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR WHAT THEY FEAR AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED. **15** But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you the reason for the hope in you—yet with gentleness and fear; **16** having a good conscience so that in

the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. **17** For it is better, if the will of God should so desire, that you suffer for doing what is right than for doing what is wrong.

– 1 Peter 3:13-17, As translated from the Greek New Testament by T. Bartolucci.

#### **Introduction:**

Expect hostility and react with hospitality.

*And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.*

#### **I. A Ready Defense: Facing Persecution for Christ's Sake (13-17)**

##### **A. R \_\_\_\_\_ Faithful (13)**

*Ask yourself the Question: "What is my Pursuit?"*

1. "If you should be" assumes that you are (Subjunctive of probable future condition)
  
2. We're to be *zēlōtēs* (ζηλωτης) - "zealots"
  
3. What does Peter mean by "harm?"

B. E Hostility (14a)

*Ask yourself the Question: "What is my Perspective?"*

1. There are four "moods" in the Greek language:
  - 1) Indicative (used to make a statement); 2) Imperative (used to express a command); 3) Subjunctive (used to express a probability); 4) Optative (used to express a possibility - even something that's unlikely).
2. "Blessed" = ***makarios*** (μακάριος) - "happy" - "blessed" - "favored"
  - a. Note Matthew 5:1-12 and 1 Peter 1:3-9
3. What kind of blessing is this?
4. Why is it that those who don't do good seem to experience blessing?
5. Note, again, the importance of a right perspective

"[nor can the men of the world harm you]; who hate and persecute the saints; these can do them no real harm; they cannot hurt their grace, which shines the brighter, being tried and proved in the furnace of affliction; they cannot destroy their peace and comfort by all the trouble they give them; all the harm they can do them is to their bodies; they can do none to their souls; and even all the evil things they do to their bodies work together for their good." [John Gill]

**Conclusion:**