

DON'T BE AFRAID AND DO WHAT'S RIGHT  
I PETER 3:13-18

Introduction:

- A. One of our great problems is, we don't believe the Bible
  - 1. We do believe it is inspired!
  - 2. We do believe it is God's Word.
  
- B. We do not believe it to the point of doing what it teaches.
  - 1. It would revolutionize our lives.
  - 2. We don't believe we are supposed to do what it teaches.
  - 3. We think it is impossible.
  
- C. These people to whom Peter writes need help, they needed advice.
  - 1. So do we! We need help! We need Advice!
  - 2. You are not smart enough to know what to do.
  - 3. There was confusion, doubt, anxiety.

I. DON'T BE AFRAID. V13

- A. "And who is there that can hurt you?"
  - 1. I'm sure they could have named some folks.
  - 2. Rom. 8:28-39.
  
- B. "if ye be followers of that which is good"
  - 1. "if only good inspires your ambitions."
  - 2. v:15 - How not to suffer.
  
- C. Suffering for what is right. v14a
  - A. "even supposing you have to suffer for the sake of what is right."
    - 1. If you stand for right you will suffer.
    - 2. Jesus was continually under attack.

3. 4:16 = Nothing to be ashamed of.
  4. Some are angered because they are called on to make a stand.
- B. "happy are ye"
1. One fallacy of life is that someday everything will be right and then we can be happy!
  2. You have got to find happiness in spite of trouble!
- C. "and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled"
1. So do not be alarmed by their threats, never let that trouble you!
    - a. trouble = pressure, compression, pressing upon, pressure from evils.
    - b. Same as John 14:1 "Let not your hearts be troubled, ye believe in God, believe also in me"

## II. DO RIGHT! V15

- A. "sanctify the Lord God in your hearts."
1. Give honour to Christ in your hearts as your Lord.
  2. Make Jesus so big in your life that He will be seen.
- B. "and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you."
1. If Jesus Christ is truly revered in us, in our hearts, in our lives, it will provoke questions.
  2. This is the main weakness in our lives!
    - a. What kind of questions do people ask you?
    - b. They ask them in areas they see you accomplishing and successful.
    - c. Gardening, sewing, fishing, hunting.
    - d. Do people ask you questions about the Bible?
  3. "ready" = at hand, prepared, active, zealous, bold
    - a. "Be instant in season and out of season."
  4. "answer" = a defence, a speech in defence.
    - a. Not just, "Praise Jesus" or "Halleluah!"
    - b. Intelligent expression of Bible truths.

5. "hope" = a well-grounded expectation, and a gladly and firmly held prospect of future good.
  - a. Not hope for present prosperity.
  - b. Change for public consumption.
  
- C. "with meekness and fear"
  1. Meekness = gentle, enduring all things in even temper, tender, free from self-sufficiency.
  2. fear = phobos = terror = fright, dismay, in the fear of God.
  3. Humility and respect are requisites.

### III KEEP ON DOING THINGS THEY MAKE FOR A CLEAR CONSCIENCE. U16

- A. People with guilt cannot serve God.
  1. It will destroy you!
  2. You cannot pray!
  
- B. Let accusations of evil be based on falsehoods.
  1. Your manner of life should make such accusations hard to believe.

### IV. THE BEST WAY TO SUFFER. U17

- A. "for it is better if God wants it that way, that you suffer for doing right, than doing wrong."
  1. We will suffer, we should decide for what reason.
  
- B. Don't make an issue of your suffering.
  1. Sometimes our pain shows through.

V. JESUS, OUR PERFECT EXAMPLE. V18

A. Jesus was not afraid.

1. "being put to death in the flesh,"
2. once suffered for sins."

B. Jesus did right.

1. "the just for the unjust."
2. "that he might bring us to God."