



The Epistles of Peter  
1 Peter 3:13-17  
From Sermon 1.4.26

Read *1 Peter 3:13-17*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: We finally return to the blessed letter to persecuted believers. God never leaves the believer or His Church without resources or defenseless. However, there is a right way and a wrong way to confront and battle the decaying culture. As always, Christ is our model in suffering for righteousness' sake. Even if our godly conduct doesn't silence the critics now, it will one day.

1. Review the themes and lessons already covered in this study and their implications.

- We are aliens in this world. Stop trying to find fulfillment here.
- Joy is a choice. Happiness is based on circumstances. Joy is based on who Christ is.
- Our Conduct affects our strength. Unaddressed sin makes us defenseless to persecution.
- God established roles of Authority in the Church, the Home, and in Society. The world is watching.
- Real life is in quiet submission and work. The world has distorted peace, love, & success.

2. How has studying 1<sup>st</sup> Peter helped in your walk already? Various Personal Answers.

3. What analogy was drawn on Sunday regarding preparedness and protection? We go to great lengths and costs to protect the physical: our families, our homes, our finances. We install alarms, construct fences and walls, and often arm ourselves. Yet we neglect to invest in spiritual protection—which is what we really need.

4. The Holy Spirit admonishes us, through Peter, to be zealous for what is good. What is zeal? Our driving passion and priority. That which matters most and gets our time, talents, and treasures.

4a. How is our zeal often misplaced? We have drive and passion for worldly things only—politics, comfort, money, hobbies, people.

4b. What two things does the Bible instruct us to be zealous over and what does that look like? The purity of the House of God and for my own Christlikeness. See also *Psalm 69:9, Proverbs 23:17, John 2:13-17, & 1 Corinthians 14:12*

5. Peter also instructs us to be ready to testify even in the midst of persecution. What are some of our excuses for neglecting personal evangelism? Various Answers. Include: Fear. Don't want to lose friends, family, fellowship at work. I don't know enough. They may ask something I can't answer. It's not my job—that's for pastors and missionaries.

5a. But what two excuse-killers does God proclaim? 1) I know my God story, and no one can refute it. See John 9:25. 2) It won't be you that they hear, but the Holy Spirit. See also Mark 13:9-11.

5b. If someone asked you why you are a Christian, what would you say? Various Personal Answers

6. The Bible says part of spiritual security is having a clean conscience. What does that mean? I've given God my best. When I sin, I own it, repent, and work to kill that part of my desire. I stand upon God's Word.

6a. What does that not mean? Being perfect/sinless. Elevating myself above others—even above unbelievers. Forming a holy huddle and having no contact or influence with unbelievers.