

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

- I Peter 3:13-17

“It isn’t enough to hear truth in words; you have to feel truth in your soul.”- Justin Whitney Earley, *The Common Rule*

2 Big Assumptions:

1) The readers of the letter are _____.- 1:1, 1:17, 2:11

a) Exiles don’t _____ where they are.

“The world is rated R, and no one is checking IDs. Do not try to make it G by imagining the shadows away. Do not try to hide your children from the world forever, but do not try to pretend there is no danger. Train them. Give them sharp eyes and bellies full of laughter. Make them dangerous.”- N.D. Wilson, *Notes from the Tilt-a-Whirl*

b) Are we exiles?

2) The readers of the letter are on a _____.- 2:10

3 Big Questions:

1) Will we be _____ when we do good?- vs. 13-14

a) South Sudan?

b) What does it mean to be blessed?

2) How can we keep from being _____ or _____? - vs. 14-15

3) Why would they ask about our _____? - vs. 15

a) Countercultural _____ - Matthew 5:13, Acts 17:6

b) Countercultural _____ - vs. 9

c) Countercultural _____ - 2:10

Our problem is not generally that we don't _____ with gentleness and respect; it's that we don't _____.

Application: _____ your hope.

For Discussion:

- 1) In which relational areas of your life are you fearful or troubled (because of your faith)?
- 2) How can you show/share your hope in your spheres of influence?
- 3) "It might be God's will that you suffer for doing good." Discuss.