

**I. BE READY TO DEFEND (1 PET. 3:13-17)** <sup>13</sup> *Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good?* <sup>14</sup> *But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED,*

<sup>15</sup> **but** sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts<sup>a</sup>, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

<sup>16</sup> and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

**[a--v.15 set apart Jesus Christ as Lord and Master in your life!]**

[Warren Wiersbe said "What does it mean to sanctify Christ as Lord in our hearts? It means to turn everything over to Him, and to live only to please Him and glorify Him. It means to fear displeasing Him rather than fear what men might do to us. How wonderfully this approach simplifies our lives! It is (**Matthew 6:33** *But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, ....* and **Romans 12:1-2** <sup>1</sup>*Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship.* <sup>2</sup> *Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.* **HCSB**) combined into a daily attitude of faith that obeys God's Word in spite of consequences. It means being satisfied with nothing less than the will of God in our lives (**John 4:34** *Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.*).

One evidence that Jesus Christ is Lord in our lives is the readiness with which we witness to others about Him and seek to win them to Christ."]

**II. POINT TO CHRIST'S WORK (1 PET. 3:18-20a)** <sup>18</sup> *For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;* <sup>19</sup> *in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison,* <sup>20a</sup> *who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark,*

**III. DISPLAY YOUR FAITH (1 PET. 3:20b-22)** <sup>20b</sup> *in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.* <sup>21</sup> *Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the pledge of a good conscience toward God) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ [v. 21 HCSB].*

<sup>22</sup> *who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.*

[v. 21 "Though water itself cannot save, baptism with water is the vivid symbol of the changed life of one who has a conscience at peace with God through faith in Christ."

Ryrie Study Bible

"That temporal salvation by the ark was a type of the eternal salvation of **Page 2** believers by baptism of the Holy Spirit. To prevent mistakes, the apostle declares what he means by saving baptism; not the outward ceremony of washing with water, which, in itself, does no more than put away the filth of the flesh, **but** that baptism, of which the baptismal water formed the sign. Not the outward ordinance, **but** when a man, by the regeneration of the Spirit, was enabled to repent and profess faith, and purpose a new life, uprightly, and as in the presence of God." Matthew Henry Commentary]

### Summary/application:

1. All believers in Jesus Christ must expect opposition.
  2. Believers must serve God by faith and not trust in results.
  3. We can be encouraged because we are identified with Christ's victory by grace.
- Romans 6:5-7** <sup>5</sup> *For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection,* **1 Corinthians 5:**  
<sup>17</sup> *Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature;...* <sup>20</sup> *Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ,...* <sup>21</sup> *He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*
4. Baptism is important for the new convert because it is an act of obedience as a believer. It identifies the new believer with Christ's death, burial and resurrection.
  5. Jesus Christ is the only Saviour, and the lost world needs to hear His Gospel.
  6. Believers must be ready to tell someone their experience of salvation and how they can be saved.
  7. This begins with daily prayer "to be filled with the Spirit", "abiding in the word", asking God to fulfill His promises in:

**Genesis 22:18** *In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."*

**2 Peter 3:9** *The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.*

and prayer for my obedience to His commands:

**Acts 1:8** *but **you** will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon **you**; and **you** shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."*

Matthew 28: <sup>18</sup> *And Jesus came up and spoke to **them**, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing<sup>a</sup> them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching<sup>b</sup> them to observe all that I commanded **you**; and lo, I am with **you** always, even to the end of the age." [a--evangelism and b--discipleship training that produces disciples-makers]*

**8. Memorize 1 Peter 3:15** *but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts<sup>a</sup>, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; [a--set apart Jesus Christ as Lord and Master in your life!]*

"1 Peter 3: v. 15 We sanctify God before others, when our conduct invites and **Page 3** encourages them to glorify and honor him. What was the ground and reason of their hope? We should be able to defend our religion with meekness, in the fear of God. There is no room for any other fears where this great fear is; it disturbs not.

v. 16 The conscience is good, when it does its office well. That person is in a sad condition on whom sin and suffering meet: sin makes suffering extreme, comfortless, and destructive.

v. 17 Surely it is better to suffer for well-doing than for evil-doing, whatever our natural impatience at times may suggest.

v. 18 The example of Christ is an argument for patience under sufferings. In the case of our Lord's suffering, he that knew no sin, suffered instead of those who knew no righteousness. The blessed end and design of our Lord's sufferings were, to reconcile us to God, and to bring us to eternal glory. He was put to death in respect of his human nature, but was quickened and raised by the power of the Holy Spirit. If Christ could not be freed from sufferings, why should Christians think to be so? God takes exact notice of the means and advantages people in all ages have had.

v. 19 As to the old world, Christ sent his Spirit; gave warning by Noah. But though the patience of God waits long, it will cease at last. And the spirits of disobedient sinners, as soon as they are out of their bodies, are committed to the prison of hell, where those that despised Noah's warning now are, and from whence there is no redemption.

v. 20 Noah's salvation in the ark upon the water, which carried him above the floods, set forth the salvation of all true believers.

**v. 21 That temporal salvation by the ark was a type of the eternal salvation of believers by baptism of the Holy Spirit. To prevent mistakes, the apostle declares what he means by saving baptism; not the outward ceremony of washing with water, which, in itself, does no more than put away the filth of the flesh, but that baptism, of which the baptismal water formed the sign. Not the outward ordinance, but when a man, by the regeneration of the Spirit, was enabled to repent and profess faith, and purpose a new life, uprightly, and as in the presence of God. Let us beware that we rest not upon outward forms. Let us learn to look on the ordinances of God spiritually, and to inquire after the spiritual effect and working of them on our consciences. We would willingly have all religion reduced to outward things. But many who were baptized, and constantly attended the ordinances, have remained without Christ, died in their sins, and are now past recovery. Rest not then till thou art cleansed by the Spirit of Christ and the blood of Christ. His resurrection from the dead is that whereby we are assured of purifying and peace." Matthew Henry Commentary [concise]**