

I PETER:
HOLY AND
HOPE-FILLED LIVING
IN A HOSTILE WORLD

I PETER 3:13-17

Who is there to harm you
if you prove zealous for what is good?

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,**

but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts,
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;

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.

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.

HOLY AND
HOPE-FILLED LIVING...

WITNESSING TO A
WATCHING, NEEDY
WORLD

WITNESSING TO A WATCHING, NEEDY WORLD: (1 Peter 3:13-17)

1. Be zealous for what is good, 13.
2. Do not be afraid or troubled, 14.

WITNESSING: What are we afraid of???

- The person will reject me!
- They will think I am stupid!
- They will tell others how stupid I am!
- They will ridicule me!
- They may ask me a question I cannot answer!
- I may lose my job (or influence).
- Fear of actual, physical persecution!

THESE ARE LEGITIMATE CONCERNS!!!

SO...with these legitimate concerns...
why would anyone witness???

- Because Jesus Commands it! Matt. 28:19-20.
- Because LOVE demands it! II Corinthians 5:14
- Because the people desperately need it!

WITNESSING TO A WATCHING, NEEDY WORLD: (1 Peter 3:13-17)

1. Be zealous for what is good, 13.
2. Do not be afraid or troubled, 14.
3. Sanctify Christ as Lord in your heart, 15!

Isaiah 8:12b-13a

1 Peter 3:14-15

AND DO NOT FEAR
THEIR INTIMIDATION,
AND DO NOT BE
TROUBLED,

but sanctify (“set apart
as holy”) Christ as Lord
in your hearts,

Isaiah 8:12b-13a

“...And you are not to fear what they fear or be in dread of *it*.

I Peter 3:14-15

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4. Be ready to make a defense to those who ask you, 15!

“Defense” ⇔ “ἀπολογία” (“apologia”)

Two of the most common types of people
who will ask you questions...

1. The Skeptic, who just likes to argue and give Christians a hard time!
2. The Serious Seeker!

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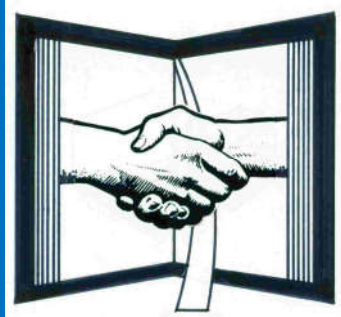
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WITNESSING TO A WATCHING, NEEDY WORLD: (I Peter 3:13-17)

5. Live out your hope, so others can see it, 15.
6. Speak with gentleness and reverence, 15.
7. Keep a good conscience, 16!
8. Be willing to suffer for doing what is right, 13-14, 17.

IN A WATCHING AND NEEDY,
BUT HOSTILE WORLD...

HOLY AND
HOPE-FILLED LIVING
IS NECESSARY FOR
EFFECTIVE WITNESSING!



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