

“Back to Basics, Pt. 9 - A Fearless Life”

1 Peter 3:13-15a

March 5, 2023

**I. Doing good chases away fear. (3:13)**

- A. What does it mean to be zealous for good?
  - 1. To live the life described in 1 Peter 3:8-9.
  - 2. To turn from evil, to do good, and to pursue peace.
- B. In general, people don't usually set out to harm others who live that way.
- C. Thus, Christians living in the manner above have little reason, on the whole, to fear harmful treatment from others in this world.

**II. Remembering Christ's Lordship chases away fear. (3:14-15a)**

- A. Peter clearly knows that sometimes people in the world will turn on us because of righteousness. Righteousness is:
  - 1. Right behavior that unintentionally condemns others.
  - 2. Right beliefs that unintentionally offend others, no matter how gently or appropriately we express them.
- B. Peter reminds us that with persecution comes the promise of future blessing.

*Matthew 5:10-12 - <sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. <sup>12</sup> “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

- C. But harsh treatment, which sometimes comes our way, can fill believers with fear and lead to compromise.
- D. The remedy to fear is to “sanctify [i.e., set apart] Christ as Lord in our hearts”(NAS).