

MANAGING NEGATIVITY IN EXILE // 1 PETER 3:13-17

1 Following God Assists With Some Helpful Insulation

Verse 13 *"And who is he that will harm you..."*

Exposure to threat will diminish if we observe Verses 8-12

"harm" κακω to oppress, afflict, maltreat

"who is he..." τις ο κακωσων (who is the one harming)

This "he" doesn't have to be a person: 1 John 2:15,16 "world" κοσμος "flesh" σαρξ "devil" διαβολος

"If you become followers of what is good" "followers" μιμητης (an imitator)

2 In This Life We Will Never Be Immune To Difficulty

Verse 14 *"But even if you should suffer"*

Sometimes we can live close to a model Christian life, and people will still go after us! (John 15:25)

Acts 5:41 "suffer" ατιμαω dishonored

God uses adversity. Can you think of any reasons why? _____

Remember, as difficulty comes, positive results can and will transpire.

"But if you should suffer for righteousness sake, you are blessed"

Matthew 5:10 *"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake"*

Why? "For theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Ownership)

"And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled" (do not fear their fear / Gr. Interlinear)

This is a quote from Isaiah 8:12...Isaiah 9:6 is the ultimate solution...

3 When Exposed To Difficulty, Be Prepared

OK...two things:

First thing:

Verse 15 *"But sanctify the Lord God"* "sanctify" αγιαζω (make unique, elevate, prioritize, specialize)

"in your hearts" (internalize the reality)

Second thing:

"and always be ready to give a defense" "ready" ετοιος fitness

"to give a defense" απολογια απο (emphatic) λογος (word)

περι της υμιν ελπιδος "concerning the in you hope"

"with meekness" Being kind, diplomatic, compassionate, diplomatic, empathetic

"and fear" Great respect for the process and the people we are trying to help.

4 Managing Negativity Enhances Our Credibility

Verses 16, 17 *"Having a good conscience"*

Ever notice how people sometimes complain about how inconsistent Christians can be...

Here is a way to mute the critics...

"having a good conscience"

The process of "credibility enhancement" seems to start with us... with us having an inner peace

Notice... Paul doesn't begin with the topic of being "perfect" but with "having a good conscience"

So what reflects a "good conscience"?

Acts 24:16 *"a conscience without offense toward God or man"*

"That when they defame you as evildoers" "defame" καταλαλεω (speak down, to criminate)

"those who revile (ειρηπιαζω emphatically threaten) your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed"