

## Preparing & Responding to Persecution

I Pet. 3:13-17

By Russ Earl

### Introduction:

1. God's people have always been (and always will be) persecuted:
2. Early Christians: Stephen (Acts 7); Antipas (Rev. 2:10); II Tim. 3:12
3. Today persecution is more mental and social rather than physical.  
But, I Cor. 10:13, 20

### THREE IMPORTANT QUALITIES IN THE TEXT:

#### A. "Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts."

1. Saint, holy, sanctify, etc. are all related terms.
2. The meaning is to set apart; enthrone Christ as Lord (Acts 2:36); Lk. 6:46
3. Further, it is a dedication to a holy purpose and use.
4. So, to sanctify God and Christ in one's heart is to regard him with that reverence and awe befitting the Lord.
5. Some illustrations of how the word is used: vessels, Sabbath, the church, etc.

#### B. "Be ready always to give an answer"

1. Give an answer, defense, apology.
2. Isa. 1:18 "Let us reason together."
3. Examples of the word in the N.T.: Acts 22:1; I Cor. 9:3; II Tim. 4:16
4. We need to be ready to defend ourselves and our teaching today. "Answer" and "reason" closely connected. If one asks an account, we are to give an account.
5. What about the prohibition of "debating" in Rom. 1:29?

#### C. "Have a good conscience"

1. Conscience is our feeling of obligation for certain conduct, or to do right or be good.  
cf. Acts 23:1
2. We may suffer for righteousness' sake. 1 Pt 3:17 cf. I Pet. 4:12-19
3. Our life must be consistent with that for which we contend.
  - a. Rom 2:1-3

### Conclusion:

1. When we can give the right answer with a good attitude to people and have the right relationship with God, we are on our way to heaven.
2. We must realize persecution beyond that which is already here, is on its way.
3. You must be prepared.