

## The Christian's Radical Response to Unjust Suffering

### 1 Peter 3:8-17

Peter now gives a summation of all he has been writing about. He has been addressing the conduct and behavior of the Christian in response to the affliction and persecution that was a part of their present experience. He opens verse eight with, "To sum up, all of you..."

In 2010, David Platt shook up the landscape of the American evangelical church with the publishing of a book entitled, "Radical." Platt's book along with Francis Chan's book, "Crazy Love," and John Piper's book, "Don't Waste your Life," served as a catalyst for a new generation of missionaries, church planters, and young people desiring to serve God with a reckless abandon.

However, David Platt did not invent the notion of "radical living or radical Christianity," the Scriptures call us to a conduct and behavior that is indeed radically different from the world. Peter is now addressing this radical response!

- **All of us are called to be a blessing. (8-9a)** Peter outlines for us several attractive traits and qualities that should be evident in "all of us." Peter is including husbands and wives, slaves and masters, citizens and rulers, and everyone else in all of life's demands.
  - **Be harmonious.**
  - **Be sympathetic.**
  - **Be brotherly.**
  - **Be kindhearted.**
  - **Be humble in spirit.**
  - **Not returning evil for evil or insult for insult!**
  - **Be a blessing.**

Unlike the fruit of the Spirit produced in the life of the believer, the flesh does not, indeed cannot, produce such traits or characteristics!

- **All of us are called to inherit a blessing. (9b-12)** The Christian is called to the "good life:" a life filled with peace and love; a life that is good and pleasant now, but grand and glorious in the future!

Peter dips his pen into the ancient hymnal and refreshes his readers with thoughts of the "good life." (Psalm 34:12-17)

**If Peter had continued quoting, here is what he would have found.** Psalm 34:18-19, "The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all."

- **Be careful what you say. (10)**
  - **Be careful what you do. (11)**
  - **Be careful what you seek. (11b)**
  - **For the Lord is watching and listening! (12)**
- **All of us should be an apologist. (13-15)** The general principle is do what is right and good and there will be no harm, however, there may be occasion where you suffer for the sake of righteousness. When this happens, do not be fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled.

**Christians were to be ready with a defense, a vindication, an apologia, for their faith and hope. And this answer was to be given not in a tone of threatening defiance, but in meekness.**

**Questions to consider: Is the Spirit producing characteristics and qualities that are attractive and pleasant? How goes your sanctification?**

**How do you respond to insults and threats? Are you becoming more Christlike in your response?**

**How do you give a defense or witness to those desiring to know about your hope in Christ?**