

FIELD GUIDE

Sunday, June 30th 2024

1 PETER

HOPE IN A HOSTILE WORLD

SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 3:13-17

SUNDAY REFRESHER

Peter addresses the very real challenge of suffering for righteousness. This kind of suffering is unique because it stems from doing good and aligning with God's good will which often conflicts with worldly values. This kind of suffering is not just an external challenge but an internal battle against the fear of losing human favor, which can deeply impact our sense of identity and worth.

Peter encourages us not to be afraid of or troubled by such opposition, but instead, to seek God's approval instead of man's approval. We honor Christ. By doing so, we maintain a good conscience, ensuring that even when we are slandered, our good behavior in Christ might produce a positive witness to those who are watching.

We shift our focus from fearing man to revering God, recognizing His supreme authority and seeking His approval above all. This shift not only liberates us from the fear of human judgment but empowers us to live out our faith authentically, even in the face of adversity.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

- What did God say to you through this passage and teaching?
- Did God reveal anything new to you?
- How is this relevant in your journey to make disciples who Love God and Love people?



QUESTIONS

- How can Christians practically prepare themselves to defend their faith with gentleness and respect in everyday situations?
- What are some examples of suffering for righteousness in today's society, and how should Christians respond to them?
- How does fearing God instead of fearing man change our approach to challenges and conflicts?
- In what ways can suffering for doing good be a blessing, as Peter suggests?
- How can Christians support one other who might face isolation or rejection because of their righteousness?

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE

- Proverbs 16:7
- 2 Timothy 2:24-25
- Hebrews 13:18

PRAYER

