

# “Stand Fast!”

## The First Epistle of Peter

Lesson 7, for Sunday, December 2, 2001

**Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.**

**1 Peter 3:15-16, NAS**

## The Outline

### II. The chastened response of practical holiness (2:1-3:22)

D. Victory in unjust suffering (3:14-3:22).

1. Basic blessedness, freedom from terror (3:14, 3:15a).
2. Respectful apologetic supported by probity of life (3:15b-3:17).
3. Christ the believer's example (3:18-3:21).
4. Christ the believer's reassurance (3:22).

## The Argument

Do the right thing! Doing so will normally keep you out of trouble. But if you get in trouble for doing the right thing, the Lord takes notice of that too. Do what will leave you with a clean conscience, and do so for the Lord. When people ask you why you act that way, gently tell them of your Savior.

Do the right thing! Now you may indeed suffer for doing the right thing, but remember that Jesus suffered unjustly also. He was sinless, and yet took the weight of everyone else's sins on himself. He went so far as to die for us, and was raised from the dead.

Do the right thing! In the days of Noah, many were disobedient and drowned in the water, but only those who came through the water (in the ark) were saved. So also, in our day we pass through the water, and are saved through the resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ, to whom everything has been given. So keep your conscience clean!

Do the right thing!

## The Key Words

**Sanctify:** ἁγιάζω -- *make holy, consecrate, sanctify*; (1) of things set apart for sacred purposes *consecrate, dedicate* (MT 23.19); (2) of God's name *treat as holy, revere* (MT 6.9); (3) of pers. (a) objectively, of Christ and his church as being acknowledged as God's own possession *set apart for a holy purpose, dedicate, consecrate* (1C 6.11); (b) subjectively, of spiritual and moral preparation *sanctify, make holy, purify* (1TH 5.23); Examples: 'to the church of God which is in Corinth, consecrated to him in union with Christ Jesus' 1 Cor 1.2; 'pursue peace with all persons, and consecration, without which no one will see the Lord' He 12.14.

**Righteous:** δίκαιος -- pertaining to being in accordance with what God requires - 'righteous, just.' Example: 'Joseph, her husband, was a righteous man' Mt 1.19.

**Baptize:** βαπτίζω -- to employ water in a religious ceremony designed to symbolize purification and initiation on the basis of repentance. In classical Greek, the word meant immersion, and was used in a literal sense of sunken ships, and figuratively of persons being overcome (as with grief). Examples: 'I baptized you with water' Mk 1.8; 'each one of you should be baptized into the name of Jesus Christ' Ac 2.38; '(John) preached the baptism of repentance' or '... turn away from your sins and be baptized' Mk 1.4; 'the turning away from useless works, believing in God, teaching about baptisms' He 6.1-2. In classical Greek, the word was used of sunken ships, and figuratively of persons being overcome (with grief).

## The Quotations

**1 Peter 3:12** “For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears attend to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.” Proverbs 16:7

**1 Peter 3:14** “...and do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled..” Isaiah 8:12