**Preparing for Perilous Times**

1 Peter 3:13-17; 2 Tim 3:1ff

1. **Be zealous to do good** (1 Peter 1:13; Mark 10:18; Acts 10:38; Rom 2:5-6; Matthew 25:31-46; Hebrews 11:16; Galatians 6:10; Ephesians 2:10; 1 Thess5:15; Titus 2:14. CAUTION: “good works” do not save us, nor cover our sins (Rom 10:2; Eph 2:8-9; James 2:14-17.
2. **Be fearless in the face of persecution** (Matt 5:10-12; 2 Tim 3:12; Herod Acts 12; Prov 29:25). Fearlessness grows in faith (Psalm 20:7-8; 33:16-17; Isa 41:10; 43:5; Heb 13:5-6). Reorient your fear (Matthew 10:28).
3. **Be honoring Christ in our hearts as holy** (1 Peter 3:15; Isaiah 8:12-13). Peter changes “Yahweh” in Isaiah 8:13 to “Christ” in 3:15). We honor Him by obeying Him (John 14:15,21, 23; Luke 6:46). The same honor due the Father (John 5:22-23). Worthy because…(2 Cor 8:9; Phil 2:8-11; Heb 7:26; Rev 5:1-12)
4. **Be prepared to give reasons for your Hope in Christ** (1 Peter 3:15). The “greatest good you can do”. What “hope”? Forgiveness and love (Ps 103:10-14). A “living hope” (1 Pet 1:3), adoption (2 Cor 6:18). Based upon unchanging promise (Heb 6:18-19) of Him who cannot lie (Titus 1:2). Sharing in God’s glory (Rom 5:2; 8:18; Col 1:27; 1 Peter 1:6-7).
5. **Be prepared to suffer** **for Him** (3:17; cf. Heb 5:8). The Christian is privileged to share in the sufferings of Christ (Philippians 1:29; 3:10; Col 1:24). “Granted to” or “given to” (charizomai=graciously granted), “to suffer for him”. As sufferings for Christ increase…so are the eternal rewards multiplied (2 Cor 4:16-18). Suffering for Christ teaches us obedience (Psalm 119:67,71), makes us more like the Master and develops the character of Christ (Matthew 10:24-25; Rom 5:3-4; Heb 5:8-9), establishes that we are “heirs with Christ” (Rom 8:17), prepares us for future ministry (2 Cor 1:4), tests the genuineness of our faith (James 1:2-3; 1 Peter 1:6-7), qualifies us for future glory (1 Peter 1:7c) and increases our future glory (2 Cor 4:17-18).

David Brainerd and Jerusha Edwards