



The Lordship of Christ
1 Peter 3:13-15
Study Guide

1. As we advance through 1 Peter we now come to the problem of persecution by unbelievers. This theme has already been encountered but it will now be addressed at greater length (1:6; 2:12, 15, 19; 3:1, 9). What specifically is Peter saying about persecution in verse 13? Is persecution the normal experience of the church? What do you think would be the usual response of society/non-Christians to the good works of Christians? What kind of good has already been referred to in 1 Peter 3:8-12? Would you like to have a neighbor who lives this way?
2. Look up Peter's quote from Isaiah 8:12. How is it used in Isaiah? How is it to be a "blessing" to be persecuted for Christ's sake (Matt. 5:10-12)? What kind of fears might the Christian experience during a time of persecution? Think of some places today where Christians are facing real dangers from their community and government because of their faith (e.g. China, Iraq). What are some common fears in such places?
3. Look up the following verses and summarize what they are saying about being persecuted for Christ's sake.
 - Genesis 4:3-7; Matthew 23:35; Hebrews 11:4

- Genesis 19:9; 2 Peter 2:7, 8; 1 Kings 19:10; Daniel 3 & 6; Mark 6:21-29
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- Matthew 16:21, 24-26; Mark 10:29, 30; John 15:18-25
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- Galatians 1:13; Acts 9:4; Colossians 1:24
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- Acts 5:41, 42
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- Matthew 5:12
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4. There is an alternative to fear according to 1 Peter 3:15. Upon whom should the Christian focus his attention? Think of times when you have been afraid. What was on your mind? How can Christ be sanctified in the believer's heart (3:22)? What would be evidence that the Christian has done this (3:15b)? Can you think of a time in your life when someone has wanted to talk to you about your Christianity because of the way you live? Explain why "gentleness and reverence" would be important in your witness to non-Christians.