

A man is sitting on a grassy hill at sunset. He is wearing a dark t-shirt and shorts, and is holding an open book. His right arm is raised towards the sky, with his hand open. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with some clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

When Holiness  
Meets Hostility  
I Peter 3:13-17

## Summary of Today's Message

Faith is not neutral. It's a powerful and dynamic force that changes behavior (if it is genuine faith). Unbelief is also a powerful force, and when believers try to live out their faith in an unbelieving environment, there are some predictable and unavoidable results.

# Summary of Today's Message

There are four truths from Peter's pen that will be helpful when God's holy people meet up with a hostile world.

# What happens when your holiness meets the world's hostility?

Peter offers the believer two possibilities

You do good and the world leaves you alone

You do good and the world harms you

What happens when your holiness meets the  
world's hostility?

I. Normally, Goodness Is Profitable (v. 13)

II. Eventually, Persecution Is Inevitable (vv. 14, 17)

### 3. Practically, Reasons Are Beneficial (v. 15)

Better translation of "sanctify the Lord God in your hearts" is "set apart Jesus Christ as Lord in your heart"

Setting apart Jesus as Lord needs to start inwardly with your heart before you can take it outwardly to the world

The only way you can stand publicly is because you can kneel privately, like Daniel

### 3. Practically, Reasons Are Beneficial (v. 15)

This world is a living courtroom; believers are always on trial.

“Any Christian who cannot present a biblically clear explanation of their faith will be insecure when strongly challenged by unbelievers.

### 3. Practically, Reasons Are Beneficial (v. 15)

In some cases, that insecurity can undermine their own assurance of salvation. The world's attacks can overwhelm them"

*Meekness and fear* means gentleness and respect



## 4. Inwardly, Conscience Is Indispensable (v. 16)

Your conscience is a divinely implanted mechanism whereby you either feel accused or excused, convicted or confirmed

At salvation, your conscience is cleansed—

Hebrews 9:14

## 4. Inwardly, Conscience Is Indispensable (v. 16)

You must win the inward war with sin to keep your  
conscience clear

Peter's point: a clear conscience will help you face a  
hostile world

# Closing Thoughts

Graham Staines' wife Gladys and daughter survived

Gladys wrote a letter that was published in Indian  
newspapers

She said she would stay in India to spread God's love

That's how a Christian should respond to having their  
thumb hit with a hammer—with love, forgiveness, and  
grace