

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 contemplative and hopeful.

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

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

The history of Christianity is, in part, the history of societies benefitting from the goodness of Christians who live in them

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

Human and women's rights

Hospitals and education

Eradicating slavery (England); child labor laws

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

Being righteous will not make you immune to trouble
Jesus Christ went about doing good but the world still
killed Him

Persecution is the result of obedience; great
persecution is the result of the Great Commission

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

Christians aren't better than anyone else, but we are better off than everyone else, and we have a better message; John 14:6

The Lord is looking for sharpshooters, not grenade launchers

Blessed means honored by God