

A MATTER OF CONFIDENCE

1 Peter 3.13-16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3.16

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2.8-9

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John 5.13

*¹³ Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened." ¹⁵ **But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.***

Very often the way we act when tough times come is determined by the things that have already been built into our lives. When the tough time arrives, it is usually too late to try to build in the things that really matter.

We Need to Develop a Strong Sense of Confidence

Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? 1 Peter 3.13

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

*'For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.'* Psalm 44.22

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8.35-39

- **There is an External Confidence**

But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. 1 Peter 3.14

- **There is also an Internal Confidence**

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. 1 Peter 3.15

We Need to Develop a Deep Sense of Conviction

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. 1 Peter 3.15

We Need to Develop a Clear Conscience

But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 1 Peter 3.15b-16

*The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose **consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.** 1 Timothy 4.1-2*