



THE BLESSING GOD OFFERS, PART 2

ANSWERING THE CALL TO THE GOODNESS OF GOD

INTRODUCTION: Count on this. God will do his part.

For all the promptings for us to do our part ... for all the companies and agencies and institutions making sure that we know that they are doing their part ...

We need to know this ... and count on this ... God will do his part ... God is the only sure thing in all of this ... and God will do his part.

1. When we are doing the good God calls us to do, we have no reason to be intimidated or threatened by any person or group, 3:13-14.

- (1 Peter 3:13–14 ESV) Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled.
- (1 Peter 1:13 ESV) Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the

revelation of Jesus Christ.

- (Romans 8:31 ESV) What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?
 - (Matthew 5:10–12 ESV) Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
- #### **2. When we do the good God calls us to do, we bring God's goodness into the world.**
- A) **The good referenced here is the goodness of God.**
- (1 Peter 3:13 ESV) Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?

- (1 Peter 3:11 ESV) Let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it.

B) Apart from God we have no goodness to offer.

- (Romans 3:12 ESV) All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.

C) No one is good but God.

- (Mark 10:17–18 ESV) And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 18 And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.

3. To do the good God calls us to we must make a conscious decision to first turn from evil.

A) We must turn our tongue—our speech—away from evil and to honoring Christ the Lord as holy.

- (1 Peter 3:9–11 ESV) Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. 10 For “Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; 11 let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it.

B) To turn our tongue *away from evil* we must first believe God that our tongue is *turned to evil* and that we cannot control it.

The tongue is the rudder of the ship, and no one can tame the tongue.

- (James 3:4–8 ESV) Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. 5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness.

The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

4. We can only do the good God calls us to do when we live before the throne of Christ our Lord.

We only find the courage and insight to follow Christ on his path of righteousness and defeat our fears and worries when we honor Christ the Lord as holy in every area of our lives.

- (1 Peter 3:15a ESV) But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy.

When we bow before Christ as Lord, he replaces the short-term perspective of threats and intimidation with an eternal perspective of justice and blessing at his revealing.

- (1 Peter 1:13 ESV) Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

When we are fearful and intimidated, we see only what is directly in front of us. We don’t have perspective. But when we are bowed before Jesus as Lord, we see what our God wants us to see.

When we are afraid, we need to trust God and believe his word.

- (Ephesians 6:16 ESV) In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one.
- (Psalm 56:3–4 ESV) When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. 4 In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?

When we honor Christ as Lord, worry and fear are replaced by worship and trust.

- (1 Peter 3:14–15 NLT) But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don’t worry or be afraid of their threats. 15 Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as

a believer, always be ready to explain it.

5. **When our doing the good God calls us to do prompts someone to ask us the reason for our hope, we should always be ready to give an account.**

- (1 Peter 3:15 ESV) But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

A) **The reason for the hope that is in us (our confident, joyful expectation of good) is our belief in the goodness of God—now and forever.**

We are to be ready [NIV] “to give an answer” ... “to give the reason” ...

- (1 Peter 3:15 NIV) But in your hearts revere 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.

The word for **reason** is **λόγος** (logon) and it seems best here in this context to understand “give the reason” as ... give a narrative account; a record or narrative description of past events, so to give a reason means to give an account, a cause for something.

The tone here is really not one of debate or contention but of interest. Your joy and confidence has piqued their interest. This isn't you being put on the witness stand and someone demanding an account, but more like a friend or a neighbor or coworker approaching you with curiosity and asking, “Wow, what is going on in your life?”

B) **An Important Reminder: The good referenced here is the goodness of God.**

- (1 Peter 3:13 ESV) Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is **good**?
- (1 Peter 3:11 ESV) Let him turn away from evil and do **good**; let him seek peace and pursue it.

C) **“Doing God's good” in the world produces two very contrasting responses.**

- i. **Hostility**—so we need to be prepared

to suffer for doing good.

- ii. **Curiosity**—so we need to be prepared to give them a reason for our hope.

CONCLUSION: THINGS WE NEED TO KNOW AS WE PREPARE TO “DO OUR PART”—TO GIVE THE REASON FOR OUR HOPE.

- (1 Peter 3:15 ESV) But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

(1) **We will be answering people who are still in the darkness.**

We will be testifying about the goodness of God to people who do not yet know the goodness of God. This person sees something in your life that speaks to them but they don't know what it is.

(2) **They are asking you about hope because even though they are still in the darkness, eternity has been stirred in their heart.**

- (Ecclesiastes 3:11 NLT) Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end.

(3) **We answer them with gentleness and respect.**

- (1 Peter 2:10 ESV) Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.
- (1 Corinthians 6:11 ESV) And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

(4) **It is very important that we know that they are asking about *what is in us*.**

- (1 Peter 3:15 ESV) But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

(5) **We need to stay on task and give a clear and accurate account of this hope based on Scripture.**

SO WHAT IS THIS HOPE REFERRED TO IN 3:15?

- (a) It is **the living hope** into which we were born into through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
- (1 Peter 1:3-5 NIV) Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.
- (b) It is **the hope of grace to come.**
- (1 Peter 1:13 NIV) Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.
 - (Revelation 1:1-8 NIV) The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, 2 who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. 3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near. 4 John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, 6 and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

This is what they are asking about

... **the hope that is in us.**

7 "Look, he is coming with the clouds," and "every eye will see him, even those who pierced him"; and all peoples on earth "will mourn because of him." So shall it be! Amen. 8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

- (c) It is **our hope in God.**
- (1 Peter 1:21 NIV) Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.
- (d) It is **a purifying hope.**
- (1 John 3:2-3 NIV) Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 3 All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.
- (e) It is a hope so powerful that it stirs eternity in the heart of a person who is still in the darkness.

GOD WILL DO HIS PART.

AND THAT MEANS ONE OF TWO THINGS FOR ALL OF US ...

SALVATION OR JUDGMENT ...

WILL YOU COME TO CHRIST TODAY?

- (Romans 10:8-11 ESV) But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame."