Posture of the Persecuted

1Peter 3:13-17

**Point 1**

As a general rule, those who do good to other experience less suffering & persecution

(1Pet 3:13)

**Point 1a.**

Avoiding suffering & persecution is not a guarantee for those who walk in righteousness

(1Pet 3:14, Matt 10:24-25, Acts 10:37-38

**Point 2**

The suffering we face for righteousness’ sake is ordained by God for a glorious purpose

(1Pet 3:17, Rom 8:28)

**Point 3**

God purposefully uses persecution as an opportunity to eternally bless His children

(1Pet 3:14-15; 1:6-7; 4:12-14, Matt 5:10-12)

**Point 4**

Standing firm amidst persecution is only possible if Christ is first in our hearts

(1Pet 3:14-15, Is 8:12-13)

**Point 5**

God purposefully uses persecution as an opportunity for hope to be declared

(1Pet 3:15; Matt 11:28-30)

**Point 6**

God purposefully uses persecution as an opportunity to undermine the opposition

(1 Pet 3:16)

Questions to consider

* How has this passage impacted your view of possible persecution you may face as a believer?
* How does this passage help us “Prepare our minds for action” should we face persecution?
* How might prayerful meditation this passage, and the possibility of facing persecution, help us to better stand in the face of it?