

Are you Ready?

Let me ask you a few questions first. Are you ready? Are you prepared to speak good of the Lord? Are you concerned about yourself in this world because of your relationship with the creator? What do you answer with when people ask why you handle troubles so well? Do you handle troubles well?

God hates evil. This is not something new. God hates sin. This is also not something new. God desires that all should come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Those that are lost in their sin are those that we should be working on bringing to Christ. What God hates is the evil that causes sin, not the sinner. I want to make this absolutely clear, God **does not** hate sinners. To say that God hates sinners is to say that God hates all mankind, because we are all sinners.

Having said that, let's read from 1 Peter:

"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:"

□□1 Peter□ □3:12-15□ □KJV□□

The Lord watches over us, His followers. He hears our prayers to Him. I don't mean that he just listens to our prayers, but He hears and acts on those prayers as He sees fit. He is against evil. Even more, who can harm us if we are clinging to Him? These things should encourage you in your walk with God. There is no question about where God stands in your life. It

is clear with whom He focuses His attention, and brothers and sisters, that attention is on us His children!

When, not if, you suffer on Christs behalf, you should be happy! To suffer for Christ is to know you are with Him. We need not fear, or be concerned with the way thing in our lives unfold. If we are standing on the promises of God, what happens to us daily is so unimportant. Our goal is eternity, not this world. This life you live does not belong to you, but to Him that created you. It's important that we keep this frame of mind strong within us, that we don't waiver in our assurance that God reigns supreme in our lives.

It's so important because how we perceive our lives will direct our ability to relate God in our lives with others. How can we give an answer to how we live our lives peaceably in trying times if we cannot live peaceably in trying times?

This is where fellowship with believers is so important. We must be encouraged by each other to keep perspective on how much control God truly has. We need to share the trials and triumphs in our lives with each other. We need to be the hands and feet of Jesus whenever possible.

God is with His people, without fail. Stand firm on that knowledge, be ready to answer on His behalf.

God Bless