

**I Prepare Your Defense – VV 3:13-17.**

**Verses 13-14.** There is always the danger of a real “flesh-&-blood” adversary may be at hand *even* if non-believers see your good works, and *even* if you are in submission to the civil government, within your family, and among your fellow believers.

The answer to the question in Verse 13 is answered in Verse 14. If you do suffer, you are “*blessed*,” meaning “**HIGHLY PRIVILEGED.**”

**Verses 15-17.** To “sanctify the Lord,” actually means to “**set apart in your hearts CHRIST as LORD.**”

**Verse 15.** “*...and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.*”

The Greek for “give a defense” is “apologian,” (ἀπολογία), (on board). It means to make a “**VERBAL** defense” or a “**SPEECH** in defense.”

Furthermore, when giving your answer for your hope, show **RESPECT.**

**Verse 16-17.** *If* you give your defense with gentleness and respect, *Then* the result is a clear conscience before Jesus Christ. Regardless, you still may be called upon to suffer...

**Class Exercise & Homework Assignment:**

Do you have a defense, an answer, ready if someone asks you—or demands of you—a reason for the hope within you?

Write your sixty seconds “Defense of Your Faith” Elevator Speech.  
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**II A Good Conscience – VV 3:18-22.**

**Verses 18-20.**

Gentleness, respect, good conscience are illustrated in this passage.

In Verses 18-20, the illustration is of Christ preaching to the “*spirits in prison.*” MacArthur, as do many scholars, says this refers to Christ speaking to the fallen angels to proclaim His triumph over their rebellion by His sacrificial death, burial, and resurrection.

Here’s another explanation to consider: based more closely on the context of the whole passage, the “spirits” referred to in Verse 19 may be the souls of those human beings who refused to listen to the preaching of Noah as he built the Ark, and they then drowned in the Flood. The preaching of Jesus in Verse 19, then, could be the *Spirit of Christ* preaching through Noah. In I Peter 1:11, Peter says the *Spirit of Christ* was active in the Old Testament prophets, and in II Peter 2:5, Peter calls Noah “*a preacher of righteousness.*” Their souls were then awaiting the final judgment. (Note: Hebrews 12:23 does use the word “spirits” for human beings.)

**Verses 21-22.**

Baptism, in context with Verses 18-20, is the **ANTITYPE** of Noah and his family being **SAVED** physically *through* the waters of the flood *in* the Ark designed by God. This, then, is not believer’s