I Peter 3:13-17

*Making The Most Of It*

Introduction

1. A father had two sons. One was an optimist and the other a pessimist. They were asked to

 clean out the stalls in the barn. The pessimist griped and complained of all the manure.

 The optimist: *“With all this manure, I know there is a pony in here.”*

2. How can we make the most of the worst possible conditions?

3. I Peter 3:13-17 gives 6 essentials:

How can we make the most of the worst possible conditions?

**I. WE MUST BE SOLD OUT 3:13**

 ***A. To A God Who Is Able***

*And who will harm you?*

1. Going back to v. 12 Seeing that God takes such good care of the righteous *who is*

*he that will harm you?*

1. We worry, fret, and become agitated. Each time God asks: *Do you trust me?*

Do you really think that God isn’t big enough for your problem or your problem is too big for God?!

1. Who or what can harm you? Whatever is happening to you (no matter how

uncomfortable or unpleasant) is for your good and God’s glory.

 ***B. To A Goal That Is Admirable***

*If ye be followers (zealots) of that which is good*

1. Christians in our day seem to be fearful of the word, *zeal.*
2. *Zeal* is hearts on fire to do the work of the Lord. *Did not our hearts burn within us? (Lk 24:32)* We see those giving 110% in sports, education, their work and we applaud them.
3. Too often we as Christians resemble Christ’s disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane: *Watch and pray…He cometh to his disciples and finds them asleep.*
4. Christ is coming…*watch and occupy.* ***Wake up…arise before it is eternally too late.*** Whatever you plan to do…do it! One day it will be too late!!

How can we make the most of the worst possible conditions?

**II. WE MUST STAND FIRM 3:14**

1. ***In Spite of the Possibility***

*But and if you suffer*

1. It is possible that suffering will occur, but not very likely.
2. Walk close to Jesus on fire for God and you may suffer. Don’t question God or doubt His presence. **We are all part of a fallen world.**
3. ***In Light of the Prosperity***

*If ye suffer for the cause of Christ…happy are ye…you are blessed*

1. *Happy* is a Greek word meaning, *prosperous.*
2. Suffering for Christ equals spiritual prosperity. In Matthew 5:3-10 the word is *Blessed (makarios)* A *makarios* island was self-contained, and no outside supplies were needed to survive and thrive. This spiritual prosperity comes inside out and not outside in.
3. ***In the Midst of the Peril***

*Be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled*

1. The reason for the admonition is that the readers were fearful and troubled.
2. The verb means to shake up or agitate. We can illustrate this with a can of Pepsi when shaken.
3. This is the result of yielding to the assault of fear.

How can we make the most of the worst possible conditions?

**III. WE MUST SURRENDER ALL 3:15a**

*But sanctify the Lord God in your heart…But sanctify Christ as Lord in your heart (NASV)*

 ***A. The Choice*** *But*

**1.** The Christian can choose on which plane he will live.

 **2.** Who sits on the throne of your life?

 ***B. The Challenge*** *Sanctify Christ as Lord in your heart*

**1.** *Sanctify* is to set apart or surrender.

 **2.** *Christ as Lord…*He is Lord…now recognize Him as such. Here is the key. We

 can set Christ apart as Savior and never allow Him to be the Lord of our lives…as

 our Guide, but never our Lord…as Friend, but never our Lord.

 **3.** We can never be sold out or stand firm unless Christ is set apart as Lord, which

 means He is the absolute ruler. Isn’t it strange how we give God pieces and parts.

 **God wants you!** The story is told of the man who during the Depression had no

 money. When the offering plate was passed he got into the plate.

1. As I give Him me, He is then free to do whatever He wants and thinks is best. He is then my strength, power, guide and friend. **I need nothing else…I have Him…He has me!**

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**IV. WE MUST SPEAK UP 3:15b**

1. ***Be Ready***
2. When Christ is enthroned as Lord, then get ready!
3. There is a duty and delight to overflow Jesus. When the heart is full, the mouth speaks!
4. ***Be Responsible***

*Give an answer (make a defense), a logical defense, give an account of the hope within us.*

1. We are Exhibit A of the nature and power of Christ.
2. *Hope that is within us*…we become a living illustration of the power of God. Those we associate with will ask. Be able to give an answer!

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**V. WE MUST SHINE FORTH 3:15c-16**

 ***A. A Good Communication 15c***

**1.** It is important how you come across: *with gentleness and reverence*

**2.** *Not high minded, but fear of the Lord*

**3.** *Meekness* which is strength under control (the control of the Holy Spirit). It is the

 opposite of pride.

 **4.** *Fear (awesomeness) of God*  **That is how we are to approach the lost world!**

 ***B. A Good Conscience 16a***

**1.** *Though they speak evil of you*

**2.** *They may be put to shame…*it is a false accusation and not true of that which you

 are accused.

 ***C. A Good Conduct 16b***

**1.** *Conversation* is manner of life or lifestyle. It takes more than just our talk to be

 an effective witness. The world wants to see the life!!

 **2.** *In Christ*…I’m in Him and He is in me. It’s Christ’s life flowing in us and through

 us that produces a convincing lifestyle.

How can we make the most of the worst possible conditions*?*

**VI. WE MUST SUBMIT EVERYTHING 3:17**

*If the will of God be so*

1. ***His Plan***
2. Sometimes the believer will suffer wrongfully. **This is not outside the will of God.** (2:21; 3:9)
3. Man has a will and as a free, moral agent God, in order to be God, allows man to carry out His wishes. At times those wishes are evil and at times a Christian is an innocent by stander.
4. ***His Purpose***
5. That good will come.
6. For us, the end product is that we will look a bit more like Jesus and God would receive all the glory.

How can we make the most of the worst possible conditions?

***\*We must be sold out.***

***\*We must stand firm.***

***\*We must surrender all.***

***\*We must speak up.***

***\*We must shine forth.***

***\*We must surrender everything.***