

Responding Under Fire

1 Peter 3:8-22

3 Discipleship truths for responding under fire:

1. Followers of Christ are called to bless other (vs. 8-22)

- requires 'circling our wagons' and living together in biblical community
- '*repay evil with blessing*' vs. 9
- includes finding ways to serve your enemies, praying for them, expressing thankfulness for them, speaking well of them and even desiring their well being
- '*because to this you were called...*' vs. 9
- '*so that you may inherit a blessing*' vs. 9

2. Followers of Christ are called blessed when we suffer (vs.13-17)

- Matt. 5:10, Acts 5:41
- "right theology always precedes right living" CJ Mahaney
- do not fear threats, revere Christ as Lord, always be prepared to give an answer and do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience
- trust in the fact that God is in control and He is 'calling the shots'

3. Followers of Christ must recall salvation is our ultimate blessing (vs.18-22)

- John 3:16
- We have been brought to God through Christ (vs.18)
- Christ our example completely understands suffering unjustly (vs.18)
- Christ our Lord was ultimately vindicated through His resurrection ensuring our future victory as well (vs.19-22)