

# WE ARE BLESSED

© 2014 Mark Beard

**Text: 1 Peter 3:8-17 NIV**

## Introduction

We are blessed despite the adversity we may face in life because our blessing does not come merely from circumstances but rather from God Himself.

Yet, we often find ourselves facing an internal conflict of dealing with the adversity that comes our way while at the same time we realize our blessings. Although blessings do not prevent adversity, should a blessed person complain about adversity? In light of our “blessed” condition, how should we respond?

In this passage we see the *truths* upon which we base our hope give us the basis for our choosing our response to the adversity of life.

## I. WE ARE BLESSED WITH AN INHERITANCE (vv.8-12).

**8** Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. **9** Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may *inherit a blessing*. **10** For, “Whoever would love life and see good days must *keep* their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. **11** They must *turn* from evil and do good; they must *seek* peace and *pursue* it. **12** For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.” (*bold italics added*)

**A. We must not allow our response to negate our blessing (vv. 8-9).**

**B. Receiving our blessing requires an active and positive response to adversity (vv.10-12).**

## II. WE ARE BLESSED—EVEN IN SUFFERING (vv.13-17).

**13** Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? **14** But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.” **15** But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be

prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, **16** keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. **17** For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

**A. We are blessed if we break the cycle of repaying evil for evil (vv.13-14).**

**B. We are blessed if we hold to our profession of faith vv.15-17).**

**Illustration:** We are sometimes like Charlie Brown's sister. One day Sally is frantic. She complains to her brother, "I'm doomed! I have to write a report on rivers and it's due next week, and I just know I'll get a failing grade!" Charlie Brown says, "Well, why don't you work real hard and turn in the best report you possibly can write?" She looks at him in amazement and says, "You know, that never even occurred to me!"

## CONCLUSION

**James Michener writes,** "A ship, like a human being, moves best when it is slightly athwart the wind, when it has to keep its sails tight and attend its course. Ships, like men, do poorly when the wind is directly behind, pushing them sloppily on their way so that no care is required in steering or in the management of sails; the wind seem favorable, for it blows in the direction one is heading, but actually it is destructive because it induces a relaxation in tension and skill. What is needed is a wind slightly opposed to the ship, for then tension can be maintained, and juices can flow and ideas can germinate, for ships, like men, respond to challenge." - James Michener "Chesapeake"

The truth is that we are blessed despite the adversity we may face in life because our blessing does not come merely from circumstances but rather from God Himself. This is the nature of the **truths** upon which we base our hope give us the basis for our choosing our response to the adversity of life.

**Footnotes:**

- a. 1 Peter 3:12 Psalm 34:12-16
- b. 1 Peter 3:14 Or *fear what they fear*
- c. 1 Peter 3:14 Isaiah 8:12
- d. 1 Peter 3:19 Or *but made alive in the spirit, **19** in which also*
- e. 1 Peter 3:21 Or *but an appeal to God for a clear conscience*

**New International Version (NIV)**

Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.