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Valley Church

**No Fear**  
1 Peter 3:13-22

**No Fear** – v. 13-14

**13 Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good?**

Five ways to not be afraid

FIRST - Consider yourself blessed

**14 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed.**

SECOND - Don't panic

**And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled,**

**No Regret** v. 15-17

THIRD – Declare Jesus as Lord

**15a but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts,**

FOURTH - Be ready

Be ready to give a witness –

**15b always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;**

Four aspects of our defense

- It's a ready defense
- It's a reasonable defense
- It's a gentle defense
- It's a respectful defense

FIFTH – Keep a clean conscience

**16 and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame. 17 For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.**

## **No Excuse** v.18-22

Four elements of the Gospel that allow us not to fear in the face of dangers and threats

### **Crucifixion** v. 18

*For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit*

### **Proclamation** v. 19,20

*in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison 20 who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.*

### **Resurrection** v. 21

*Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,*

### **Exaltation** v. 22

*who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.*

## **Conclusion**

### **Discussion Questions**

- What is one thing you were afraid of as a kid but aren't now? Describe a recent circumstance when you were anxious or even afraid.
- What part does fear play in the challenges facing our country today in the areas of politics, racism, COVID, or other? What impact does our media have on fear?
- Discuss the "fight or flight" response that fear has upon our bodies. Is there a spiritual equivalent? Which response is best and when?
- Read Romans 8:31-39. List all the things that might separate us from Christ and why it's impossible for them to succeed.
- "Sanctify Jesus as Lord" sounds pretty fancy but may be hard to relate to... put that phrase into your own words, especially in light of your second answer to question #1.
- On a scale of 1 to 10, how "ready" are you to give the reason you have hope in the middle of your struggles? Take 2 minutes and tell your Gospel "story" (testimony).