

### That One Thing 1 Peter 3:13-22

When you find your definitions in God, you find the very purpose for which you were created. Put your hand into God's hand, know His absolutes, demonstrate His love, present His truth, and the message of redemption and transformation will take hold.

Ravi Zacharias

### Staying centered in a crisis (3:13-14)

Who will harm me? I don't have enough space to answer!

Impossible advice when they're out to get you

- Don't be afraid; don't let their threats frighten you
- Realize that in suffering under God's will, you're still blessed! (3:12)
  - God's eyes are still on you
  - God's ears are still hearing your prayers

### It's that one thing ... (3:13-17)

1) In your hearts, 2) revere Christ, 3) as Lord

It's a center that gives visible, curious hope

It's a center that gives a gentle, respectful response

It's a center that gives a clear conscience

### We have an ultimate incentive (3:18-22)

(Genesis 6:1-5; Jude 4-7)

Jesus suffered for doing good – he's our example

- He did the ultimate good
- For the ultimate goal
- Paying the ultimate price
- For the ultimate prize
- And obtained the ultimate victory

An amplified reading:

He was put to death (as you may well be), but that was only in the earthly sphere: he has been raised to new spiritual life (as you will be too, even if you die for him). (So death was, for Jesus, the way of achievement and victory; do not fear those who can only kill the body.) In the triumph of his resurrection he went to the fallen angels awaiting judgment in their place of confinement, and proclaimed to them the victory won by his redeeming death. These were those spirits who rebelled against God in the days of Noah... (Even the most wicked of spiritual powers have had to recognize the authority of the risen Jesus; whatever the forces against you, they are not his equal)...<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Black, A., & Black, M. C. (1998). *1 & 2 Peter* (1 Pe 3:20). Joplin, MO: College Press Pub.