READY TO DEFEND

SCRIPTURE - 1 Peter 3:8–17 Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; [9] not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. [10] For “He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit. [11] Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. [12] For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.” [13] And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? [14] But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed. “And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.” [15] But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; [16] having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. [17] For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

INTRODUCTION

A. Peter begins this section by giving instruction on Christian living. (8-11)
B. God’s eyes are on the righteous but His face is against those who do evil. (12)
C. He goes on to say, we should not be harmed for doing good, but if we suffer for righteousness then we are blessed. (13-14)
D. We want to concentrate on verse 15, But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

I. SANCTIFY GOD IN YOUR HEART

A. Sanctify means to set apart as holy
B. Only place God is referred to as sanctified rather than sanctifier
C. Give God a special place in your heart

II. BE READY TO GIVE A DEFENSE

A. PAUL DEFENDED THE GOSPEL - (Phil 1:7) just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.
B. DAVID UNASHAMEDLY SPOKE TO KINGS OF GOD - (Psa 119:46) I will speak of Your testimonies also before kings, And will not be ashamed.
C. JEREMIAH SPOKE IN SPITE OF THE POSSIBLITY OF DEATH - (Jer 26:12-14) Then Jeremiah spoke to all the princes and all the people, saying: “The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city with ail the words that you have heard. {13} "Now therefore, amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the LORD your God; then the LORD will relent concerning the doom that He has pronounced against you. {14} "As for me, here I am, in your hand; do with me as seems good and proper to you.
D. KNOW HOW TO ANSWER - (Col 4:5-6) Waik in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. {6} Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.
E. CORRECT IN HUMILITY - (2 Tim 2:24-26) And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, {25} in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, {26} and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his

III. FOR THE HOPE THAT IS IN YOU

A. SOME HAVE NO HOPE
   1. (1 Th 4:13-18) But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. {14} For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. {15} For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. {16} For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. {17} Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. {18} Therefore comfort one another with these words.
   2. (Eph 2:11-13) Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh; who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands; {12} that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. {13} But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

B. HOPE ONLY IN THIS LIFE? - (1 Cor 15:19-20) If in this life **only** we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. {20} But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

C. OUR HOPE IS IN HEAVEN
   1. (Col 1:4-5 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; {5} because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,
   2. (1 Pet 1:3-4) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to living hope through the of Jesus Christ from the dead, {4} to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

D. OUR HOPE IS ETERNAL LIFE
   1. (Titus 1:1-2) Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, {2} in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,
   2. (Titus 3:4-7) But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, {5} not by works of righteousness which we have done. but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, {6} whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, {7} that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

E. CONFESSION OR OUR HOPE - Hebrews 10:22–27 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. [23] Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. [24] And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, [25] not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. [26] For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, [27] but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.

IV. WITH MEEKNESS AND FEAR

A. NO ARROGANCE IN SALVATION - (Rom 11:19-21) You will say then, "Branches were broken off that it might be grafted in." {20} Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. {21} For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either,
B. CORRECT IN HUMILITY - (2 Tim 2:25) in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,
C. SAVE OTHERS WITH FEAR - (Jude 22-23 And on some have compassion, making a distinction; {23} but others save with fear, pulling them out of the firer hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

CONCLUSION

A. WE WAIT FOR HOPE TO BECOME REALITY - (Rom 8:24-25) For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? {25} But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.
B. HOPE IN GRACE AND PURIFY SELF
    1. HOPE IN GRACE - (1 Pet 1:13-15) Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; {14} as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; {15} but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct.
    2. HOPE PURIFIES - (1 John 3.2-3) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. {3} And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.
C. DO YOU HAVE HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE IN HEAVEN WITH GOD?
D. ARE YOU PREPARED TO GIVE AN ANSWER TO OTHERS ABOUT WHY YOU HAVE THAT HOPE?