

1 Peter 3:13

by John Gill

You have nothing to fear from the world because God, Christ, good angels, and even the devil cannot harm you.

Scripture: Psalm 34:15, Matthew 10:28, John 10:28-29, Romans 8:31, 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, Philippians 1:29, Titus 2:14, James 1:2-4, 1 Peter 3:13, 1 John 4:4

Topics: "Divine Protection", "Goodness in Adversity"

Description

John Gill expounds on 1 Peter 3:13, emphasizing that no one can truly harm those who follow God and do good. He reassures believers that God, Christ, angels, and even the law cannot inflict lasting harm on their souls, as they are protected and defended by divine grace. Gill encourages the faithful to imitate God's goodness and to follow Christ, highlighting that even persecution can serve to strengthen their faith and character. Ultimately, he asserts that the trials faced by believers work together for their good, reinforcing the idea that true harm cannot touch their spiritual essence.

Transcript

Ver. 13. And who is he that will harm you,.... Or "can harm you". God will not; for his eyes are upon the righteous, to protect and defend them, and, his ears are open to their cries, to avenge them; he is on their side, and he is the only lawgiver that is able to save, and to destroy. Christ will not; for when he came the first time, it was not to condemn, but to save; and when he comes a second time, though he will rule the wicked with a rod of iron, and dash them in pieces as a potter's vessel; yet his people, who are his jewels, he will spare, as a man spares his only son.

Good angels will not; these rejoice at the conversion, and in the salvation of sinful men, encamp about the saints, and are ministering spirits to them: nor the devil; though he would devour, he cannot; for greater is he that is in the saints, than he that is in the world: nor can sin; for though it wars against them, it shall not have the dominion over them; and though it often breaks in upon their peace and comfort, it cannot damn and destroy their souls: nor the law; for though it pronounces guilty, and curses those that are under it, and are of the works of it, yet since Christ has fulfilled it for his people, by obeying its precepts, and bearing its penalty, the curse, it lies not against them, nor can it inflict any punishment on them: nor the men of the world; who hate and persecute the saints; these can do them no real harm; they cannot hurt their grace, which shines the brighter, being tried and proved in the furnace of affliction; they cannot destroy their peace and comfort by all the trouble they give them; all the harm they can do them is to their bodies; they can do none to their souls; and even all the evil things they do to their bodies work together

for their good; and they must be very wicked men that will do harm in any respect to such as behave well in states, cities, towns, or neighbourhoods:

if ye be followers of that which is good; of God, who is essentially, originally, and infinitely good, and does good to all his creatures, by imitating him in holiness and righteousness, in kindness, mercy, and beneficence; and of Christ, the good Shepherd, following him in the exercise of grace, as of humility, love, patience, &c. and in the discharge of duty; and of good men, the apostles of Christ, the first churches, faithful ministers, and all such who through faith and patience have inherited the promises, and that both in doctrine and practice; and of all good things, whatever is true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report, particularly righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness.

Some copies, as the Alexandrian, and others, read, "zealots", or "zealous of good"; of good works, as in Tit 2:14 and so the Vulgate Latin, Syriac, and Ethiopic versions.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/john-gill/1-peter-313/>

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