

stand up for Jesus, especially during extreme suffering. This commitment meant not remaining speechless when circumstances warranted them to defend their faith. He said, “Always be ready to give a defence to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear” (1 Peter 3:15). Their readiness to answer required them to know God’s Word. They were to respond in godly meekness and fear, so that their persecutors would be ashamed of their own conduct.

Had Lee remained silent or responded rudely, the cause of Christ would have suffered. Lee later wrote, “God has a way of flushing us out of our quiet little places, and when He does we must be ready to speak for Him.”

*When people wonder about our faith,  
What answer will we give?  
We’ll tell of Jesus who bore our sins  
And shows us how to live. —Fitzhugh*

**To be silent about the Saviour and His salvation is a dreadful sin of omission.**



## Central Mountains Baptist Church

# APRIL 3, 2016

### Ready To Speak

Lee and his wife were at a coffee. At another table sat four men, one of whom was mocking Christianity and the resurrection of Jesus.

Lee could sense the Lord telling him to respond. But his fear kept him from doing so. Finally, he knew he had to make a stand. So he walked over to the men and began giving historical evidence for the resurrection.

How do we respond when we’re in a similar situation? The apostle Peter encouraged his readers to make a commitment to





# I Peter: Overcoming Suffering Witnessing to Antagonists

**(Proverbs 28:1)** "The wicked flee when no one pursues, But the righteous are bold as a lion."

**(Matthew 10:16)** ""Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves."

In 1 Peter 3:13-17 Peter gives us 5 strategies for witnessing to antagonists:

1. Be \_\_\_\_\_,



Outdoor preaching

verses 13, 16, 2:23

**(Proverbs 11:23)** "The desire of the righteous is only good, ..."

**(James 3:13)** "Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom."



Reviling

2. See the \_\_\_\_\_, verses 14, 5:10, 4:12-14, 16, 19

**(Matthew 5:10-12)** "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. {11} "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. {12} "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

**(Matthew 5:44-48)** ""But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, {45} "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. {46} "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? {47} "And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? {48} "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."



**(Psalms 103:2-6)** "Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: {3} Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, {4} Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, {5} Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. {6} The LORD executes righteousness And justice for all who are oppressed."

Burmese Christians

3. Be \_\_\_\_\_, verses 14-15

**(Matthew 10:28)** ""And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."



4. Be \_\_\_\_\_, verse 15

5. Be \_\_\_\_\_, verses 15, 17

