

1 Peter 2:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:

Analysis

Peter reveals God's will for Christian conduct: "For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men" (hoti houtōs estin to thelēma tou theou, agathopoiontas phimoun tēn tōn aponōn anthrōpōn agnosia). Good works are God's ordained means to silence false accusations. "Foolish men" (aponōn anthrōpōn) refers to those lacking spiritual understanding who slander Christians. The verb "put to silence" (phimoun) literally means "muzzle"—good conduct silences critics like a muzzle silences an animal.

Historical Context

Christians faced slanderous accusations (atheism, immorality, disloyalty). Peter's strategy: let conduct disprove lies. This apologetic approach—defending faith through lifestyle, not just arguments—proved effective. Pliny the Younger (Roman governor, c. AD 112) investigated Christians and found them morally exemplary despite accusations. Early church's charity, sexual purity, and integrity attracted converts and eventually won legal toleration.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What specific 'good works' in your life currently silence critics of Christianity?
2. How can you respond to foolish accusations against your faith with action rather than just arguments?

Interlinear Text

ὅτι	οὕτως	ἐστὶν	τὸ	θέλημα	τοῦ	θεοῦ	ἀγαθοποιοῦντας
For	so	is	G3588	the will	G3588	of God	that with well doing
G3754	G3779	G2076		G2307		G2316	G15
φιμοῦν	τὴν	τῶν	ἄφρόνων	ἀνθρώπων	ἀγνοσίαν		
ye may put to silence	G3588	G3588	of foolish	men	the ignorance		
G5392			G878	G444	G56		

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 3:17 (References God): For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

Titus 2:8 (Parallel theme): Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

Matthew 7:26 (Parallel theme): And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

1 Peter 2:12 (References God): Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (References God): In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Jeremiah 4:22 (Parallel theme): For my people is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children, and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 (References God): For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

Job 2:10 (References God): But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

Proverbs 9:6 (Parallel theme): Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.

2 Peter 2:12 (Parallel theme): But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;