

# 1 Peter 3:12

by John Gill

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*The sermon emphasizes God's watchful eye and loving care for the righteous, and His anger and justice against the wicked.*

**Scripture:** Psalm 34:15, Psalm 145:18, Proverbs 15:29, Isaiah 59:1-2, Matthew 5:45, Romans 3:22, 2 Thessalonians 1:6, Hebrews 4:13, 1 Peter 3:12, 1 John 5:14

**Topics:** "Righteousness", "God's Justice"

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## Description

John Gill expounds on 1 Peter 3:12, emphasizing that the Lord's eyes are always upon the righteous, not just in the sight of men but through the righteousness of Christ. He reassures believers that God delights in them and is attentive to their prayers, promising justice and protection. Conversely, God's face is against those who do evil, signifying His anger and the dire consequences for the wicked. This understanding encourages the righteous to trust in God's timing for justice rather than seeking vengeance themselves.

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## Transcript

Ver. 12. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous,.... Who are so not merely in the sight of men, but of God; nor in their own account, and by their own works, but in the esteem of God, through the imputation of the righteousness of his Son unto them: and because he loves this righteousness, and is well pleased with it, seeing by it his law is magnified and made honourable, therefore his countenance beholds with pleasure and delight those righteous ones who are clothed with it; his eyes of omniscience, love, care, and protection, are always upon them, watching over them, delighting in them, running to and fro in the earth on behalf of them; he sees every injury done them, and in his own time and way will do them justice; which is a reason why they should not take vengeance themselves, but leave it with him, whose it is:

and his ears are open to their prayers; or "prayer"; in the Hebrew text, "to their cry"; he is a God hearing prayer, and his righteous ones have his ear; he hears them while they are speaking, and will sooner or later answer, and avenge his elect, who cry unto him day and night; for as he has an ear to hear their cries, which is not heavy, he has an arm to save them, which is not shortened; and this is another reason why they should behave as before directed, and which is still strengthened by what follows;

but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil; it is added in the psalm, "to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth": by "the face of the Lord" is meant, as the Jewish writers {y} interpret it, the anger of the Lord; it intends, not his kind, pleasant, and loving countenance, but his angry one with the former he

beholds the upright, and with it he looks upon his righteous ones; but the latter is upon and against the wicked, and is dreadful and intolerable, and the consequence of it is everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.

{y} Jarchi & Menachem apud ib. & Aben Ezra in loc.

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