

BLESSED HOPE

BHBC



BIBLE CHURCH

**Learning of Christ, Loving in Christ, Leaning on Christ, Living for Christ, Leading to Christ
Based on the Word of God**

1 PETER

LIVING FOR THE
LORD IN BAD TIMES



SUFFERING FOR DOING GOOD

1PETER 3:13-17

WARNING



- **THE CONTEXT:** The basic theme of 1 Peter is the proper response of a believer in Christ in times of suffering and difficulties.
- **THE PRINCIPLE:** The believer in Christ has the anticipation of an eternal inheritance that gives strength, encouragement and hope even in the most difficult times. In light of this, God wants the believer **to be holy** in all his conduct no matter what difficulties are being faced.
- **Perspective:** Sometimes, a believer will suffer for righteousness' sake because of they are compelled to obey God rather than man's immoral, unethical, or illegal rules, laws and policies.

- **Lesson:** When a believer is mistreated for righteousness' sake, they are to respond with godly composure (e.g., not with hostility, cussing, or vindictiveness).
- The apostle Peter in 1Peter 3:13-17 give three key responses that a believer should consider when under mistreatment for doing what is good.

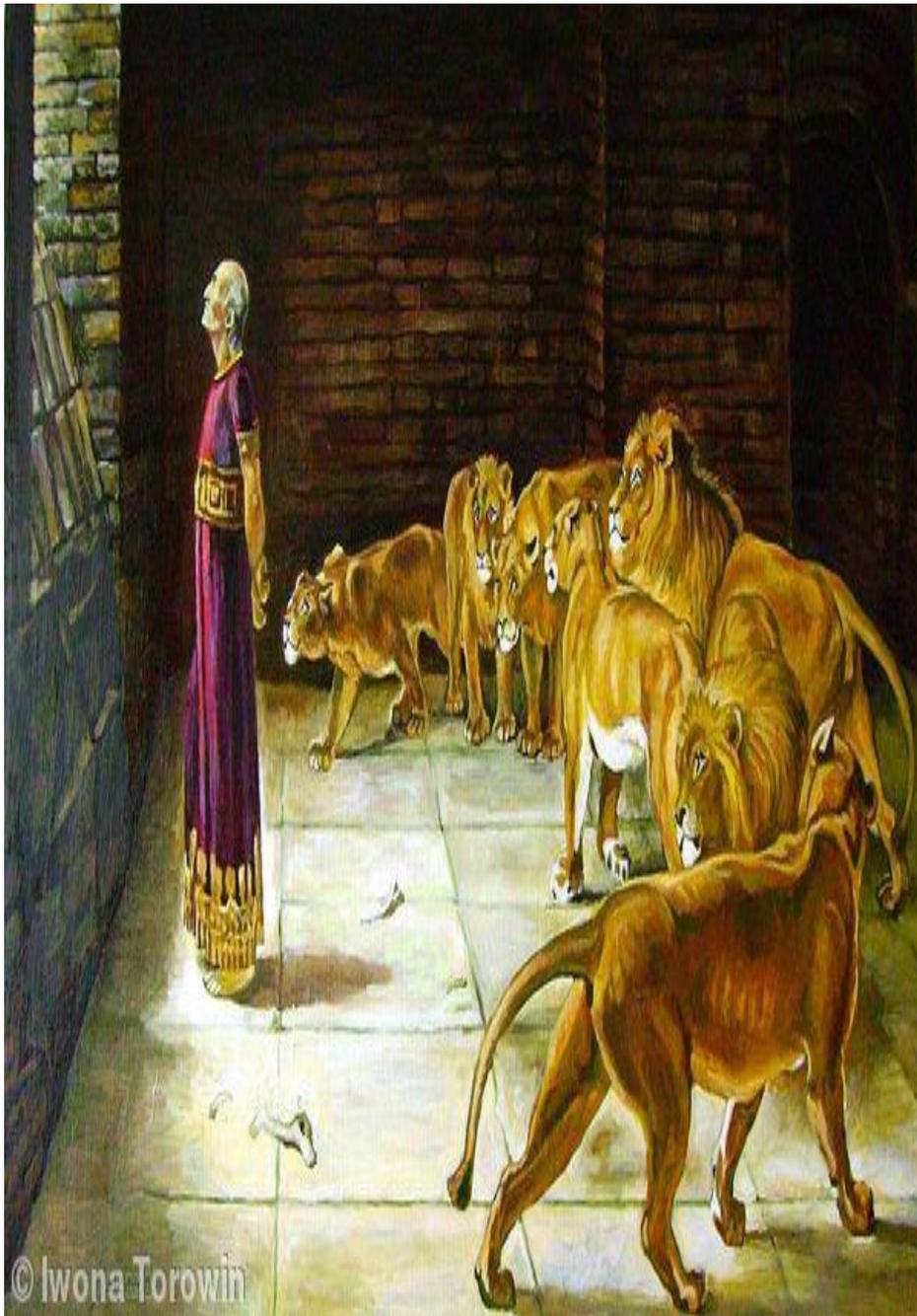


RESPONSE #1: WHEN MISTREATED DON'T BE INTIMIDATED. 1 PETER 3:13-14



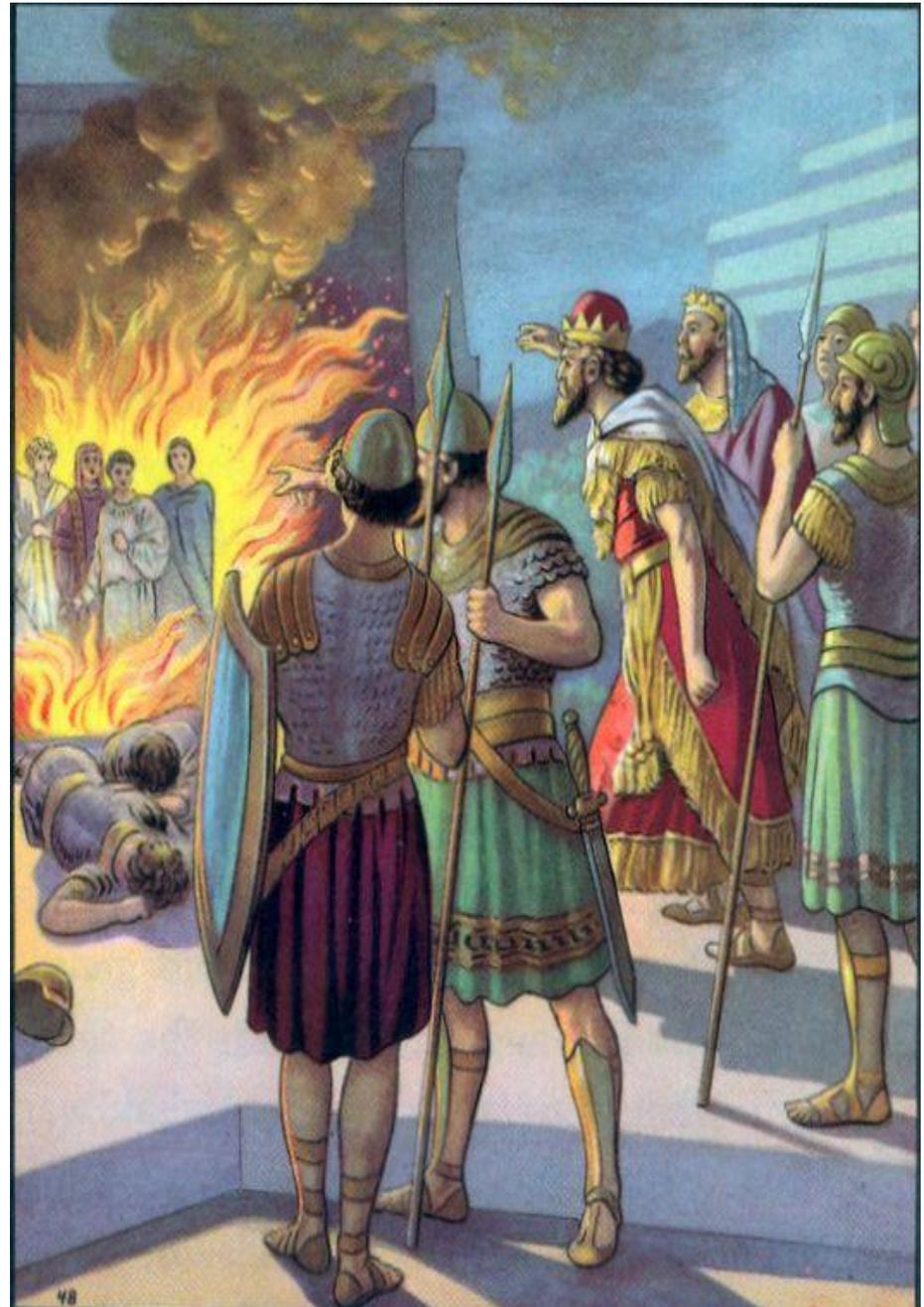


- **THE QUESTION:** And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? (implied answer: No one).
 - You refrain your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. 3:10
 - You turn away from evil and do good. 3:11a
 - You seek peace and pursue it. 3:11b



- **THE PARADOX:** But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed.
 - In this fallen, sinful world, it is very possible for godly people to be mistreated.
 - **Illustration:** A young man refuses to join a gang that is involved in criminal activities-- so the gang turns upon him in retaliation.
 - This is NOT talking about “**whistle-blowers**” whose company comes down hard on them out of revenge for exposing their wrong doing.
 - This is talking about people, who in good conscious, choose to obey the Lord, and they are punished for doing so.

- **Remember:** Whenever a believer is compelled to obey God rather than man's immoral, unethical, or illegal rules, laws and policies, he/she must be prepared to accept the consequences for that stand for the Lord-- which may include mistreatment at the hands of ungodly people.





Blessed

ARE THOSE WHO ARE

Persecuted FOR

Righteousness'

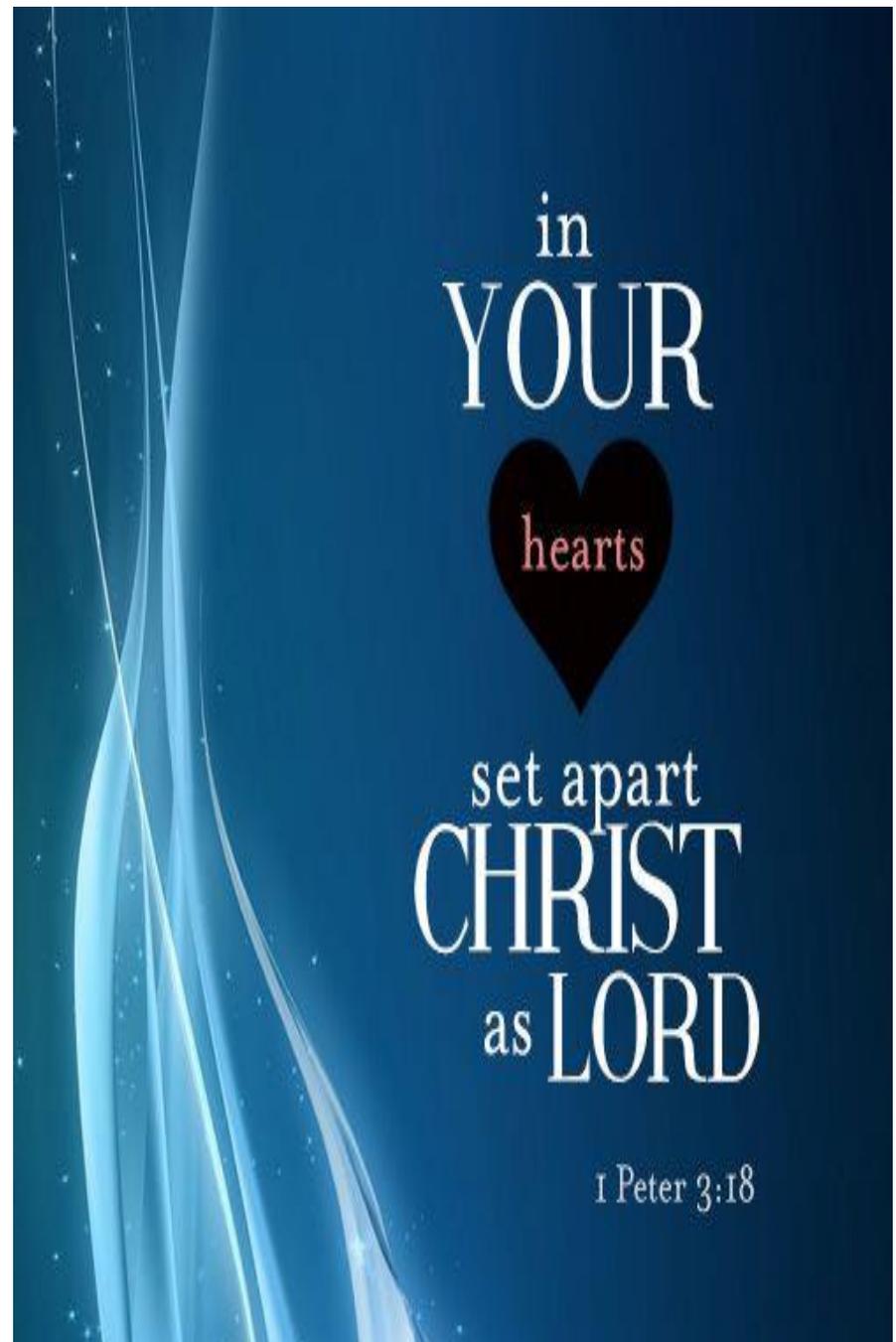
Sake Matthew 5:10-12

- **The Exhortation:** If you suffer for righteousness sake, you are blessed.
 - Therefore, do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled (quoted from Isaiah 8:12).
 - **Point:** Do not allow fear of what other might say or do cause you to compromise living for the Lord.
 - **Note:** The Lord Jesus Christ pronounced a blessing on those who are persecuted for righteous sake (cf., Matt.5:10-12)
 - **Note:** God sees your mistreatment and will be glorified in your vindication.

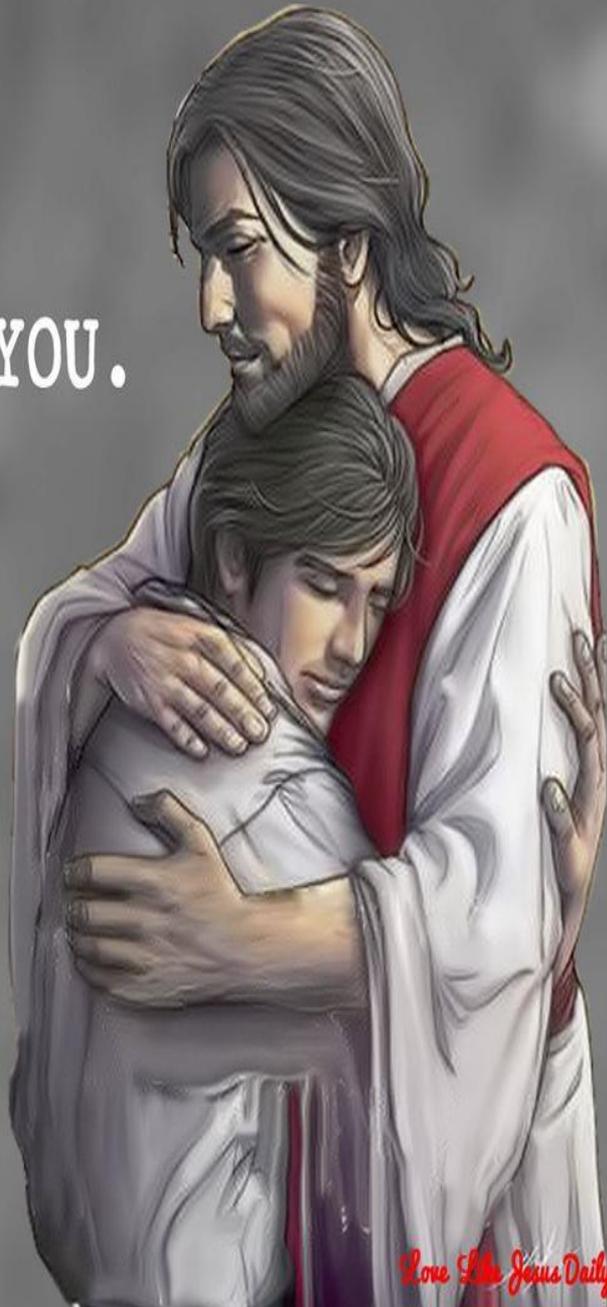
**RESPONSE #2: WHEN MISTREATED ACKNOWLEDGE
CHRIST AS LORD IN YOUR HEART. 1 PETER 3:15**



- **THE EXHORTATION:** But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts (Many Greek MSS read: “... sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts.”
 - This phrase is NOT implying some mystical, metaphysical exercise or ritual to achieve some kind of inner illumination deeper relationship with God, inner peace or tranquility, or some emotional ecstasy of some kind (e.g., people are always looking for some kind of personal experience)



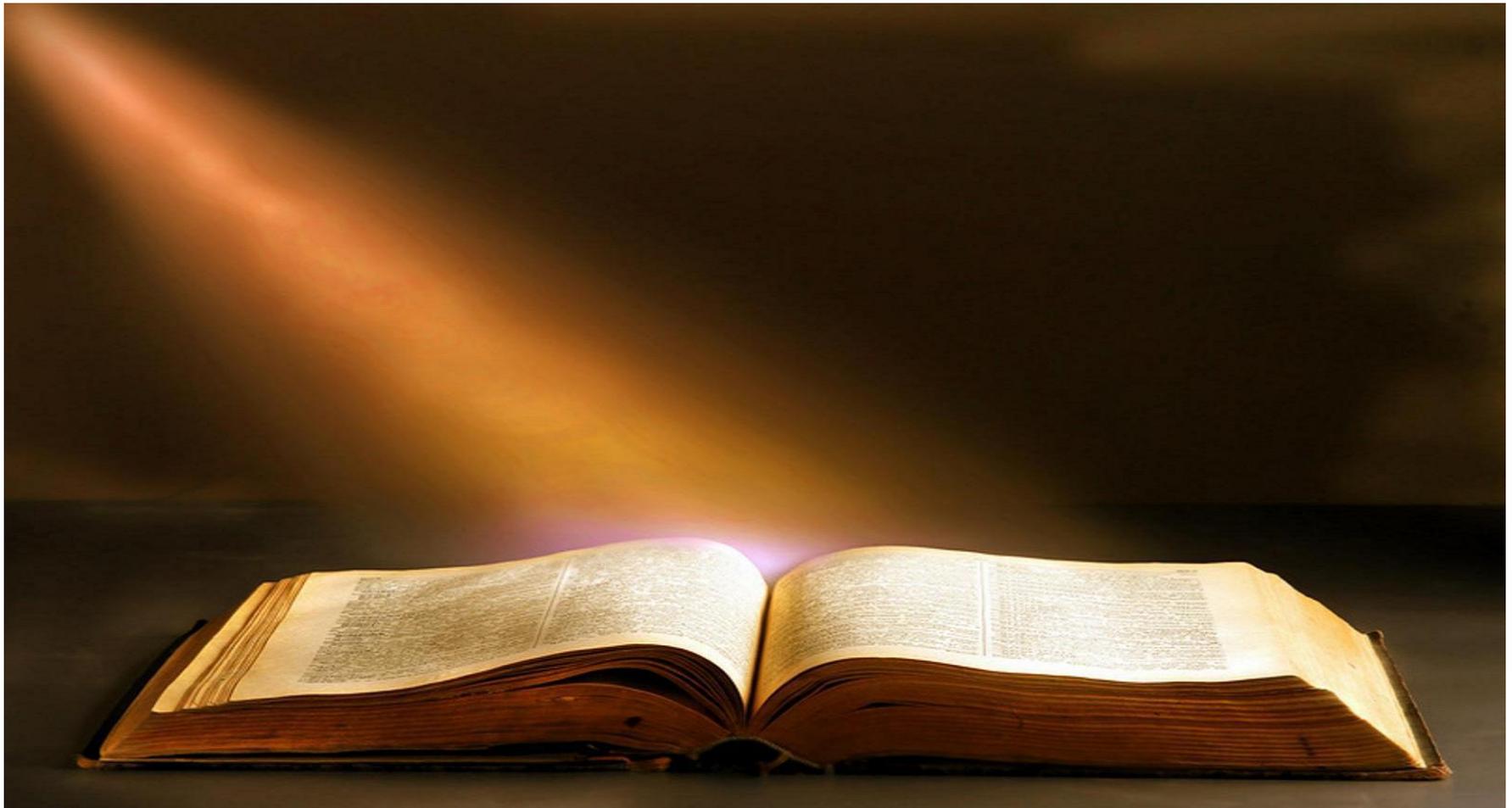
I GOT YOU.



- **THE EXPLANATION:** To “sanctify the Lord in your heart” means to set the Lord apart in your heart--that is to follow His leading, guiding, and teaching in your life at all times, even in times of mistreatment, rather than focusing on your own reasoning, and thinking as to “how to fix this.”
 - To “sanctify the Lord God in your heart” implies giving Him reverence and respect in all situations--the good and the bad.
 - if we “sanctify the Lord God in our hearts” we will not fear the intimidations of men, instead, our decisions and actions will follow the leading, guiding, and teaching of the Lord, no matter what the circumstances look like.

**RESPONSE #3: WHEN MISTREATED BE PREPARED TO
GIVE A GOOD REASON FOR YOUR HOPE IN CHRIST.**

1 PETER 3:15B-17



- **RESOLUTION #1:** Be Prepared To Give Your Defense To **Whoever** Asks.
 - Be able to clearly and specifically explain why you are obeying God rather than man (e.g., being dishonest with my clients violates by walk with the Lord).
 - Be able to clearly explain to anyone how one becomes a Christian:



SPECIAL NOTE: A SIMPLE GOSPEL PRESENTATION

- **A = Admit** that you are a sinner in serious trouble with a holy God.
- **B = Believe** that God provided salvation for you through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who died for your sins and rose again from the dead on the third day.
- **C = Confess** personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for the reception of forgiveness of sin and eternal life.



- **RESOLUTION #2: Be Prepared To Give Your Defense With The **Right Attitude.****
 - With meekness (e.g., without arrogance)
 - With fear (e.g., godly reverence and respect for God)
 - With a good conscience (e.g., out of confidence and trust in the Lord)

- **RESOLUTION #3:** Be Prepared To Give Your Defense For The Right Reason.
 - So that the truth may shame to silence false accusations.
 - So that the truth may lead others to faith in Christ





- **EPILOGUE:** It is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.
 - **Note carefully:** Sometimes it is the will of God for some of us to suffer for doing good.
 - To show the unsaved world that we are serious about our faith.
 - To show the unsaved world their need of salvation in Christ.
 - To encourage “weak” believers to take a bold stand for Christ.
 - To show the unsaved world a distinction between that which is good and that which is sinful and evil.

- **Note carefully:** Those who name the name of Christ, and suffer for wrong doing, bring shame to the name of Christ.
- They give the unsaved an excuse for living in wickedness.
 - They give the unsaved an excuse for rejecting Christ.
 - They cause “weak” believers to stumble into sin or to become discouraged in living for the Lord.
 - They give the unsaved ammunition to ridicule the church and the saints





A CHALLENGE FOR YOU

- ARE YOU WILLING TO TAKE A STAND FOR CHRIST, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU?

**I am a
Christian.**

You can ridicule me.
You can torture me.
You can kill me.

**But you cannot
snatch me
out of the Father's hand**



RECEIVE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR
SAVIOUR TODAY!!



- 1. Acknowledge** that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, **died** on the cross for your sin, and that He **arose** again from the dead on the third day.
- 2. Admit** that you are a sinner, **guilty** of sin and **responsible** and **accountable** to a holy God for your sin, and that you are under His just condemnation and eternal punishment for your sin.
- 3. Accept** the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour by **receiving** His provision of salvation through your faith in Him alone.