

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



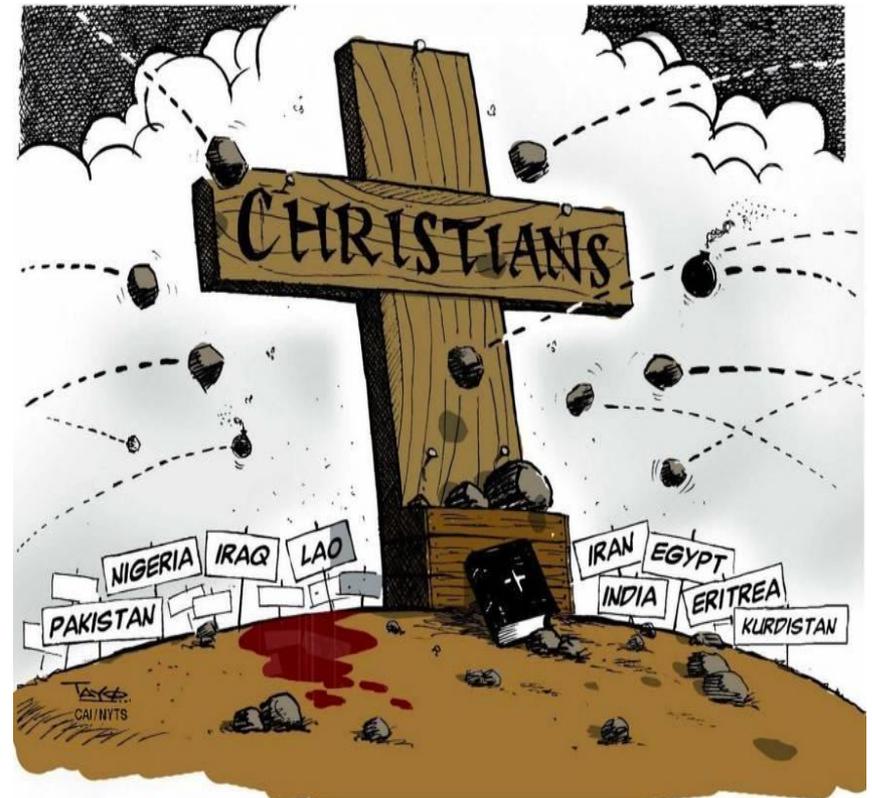
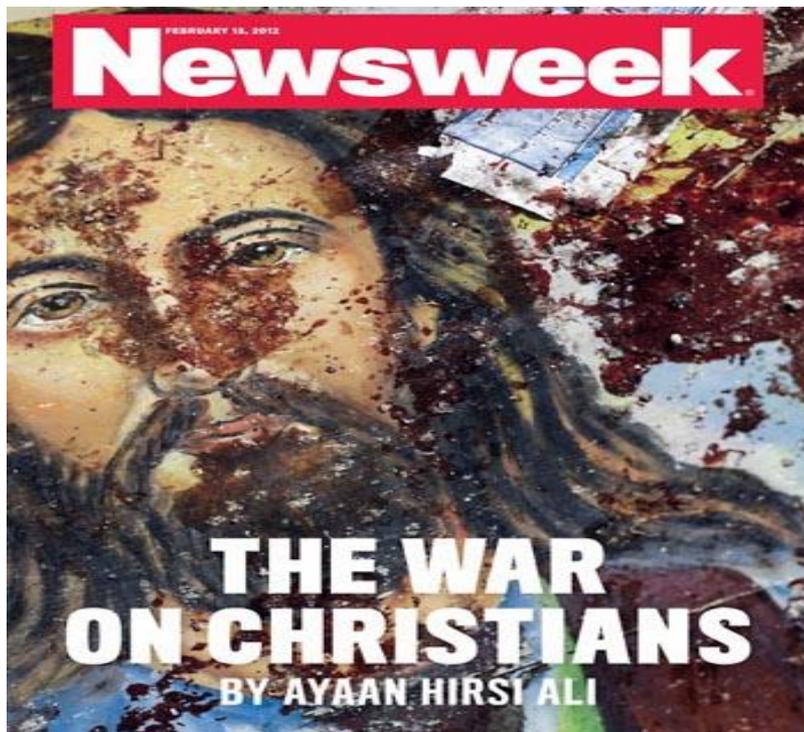
FACTS ABOUT FIERY FURNACES

1PETER 4:12-19



- **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:** The believer who lives a godly life may be called upon by God to take a stand for righteousness, and by so doing, experience the “fiery trial” of opposition, ridicule and persecution.

- **Lesson:** All believers should be mentally and spiritually prepared to take a stand for the cause of Christ.
- The apostle Peter in 1Peter 4:12-19 gives 4 **ATTITUDES** that should prepare us for enduring a “fiery trial” when we must take a stand for the cause of Christ in an ungodly world.



ATTITUDE #1: EXPECT SUFFERING

1PETER 4:12

- **Realization #1:** Suffering for the cause of Christ is not something that should be strange to the Christian life.
 - Anything that glorifies God will anger Satan and the ungodly world he influences.
 - Throughout history, the people of God have suffered at the hands of the unbelieving world for standing up the things of God

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 - **Note:** The absence of Satanic opposition to what the believer is doing would be a strange thing!!



- **Realization #2:** Suffering for the cause of Christ should be seen as God's methods to try and refine the believer.
 - **Remember:** The Lord did not promise the believer exemption from pain, disappointment, bereavement, or persecution (cf., John 16:33).
 - Our “fiery trials” are not accidents, they are used by God:
 - To show the unsaved our seriousness about the gospel.
 - To show the unsaved their need of salvation.
 - To encourage “weak” believers to take a stand for Christ.
 - To show the unsaved the distinction between living for God and living in sin and ungodliness.
 - To encourage all believers to grow in their faith.



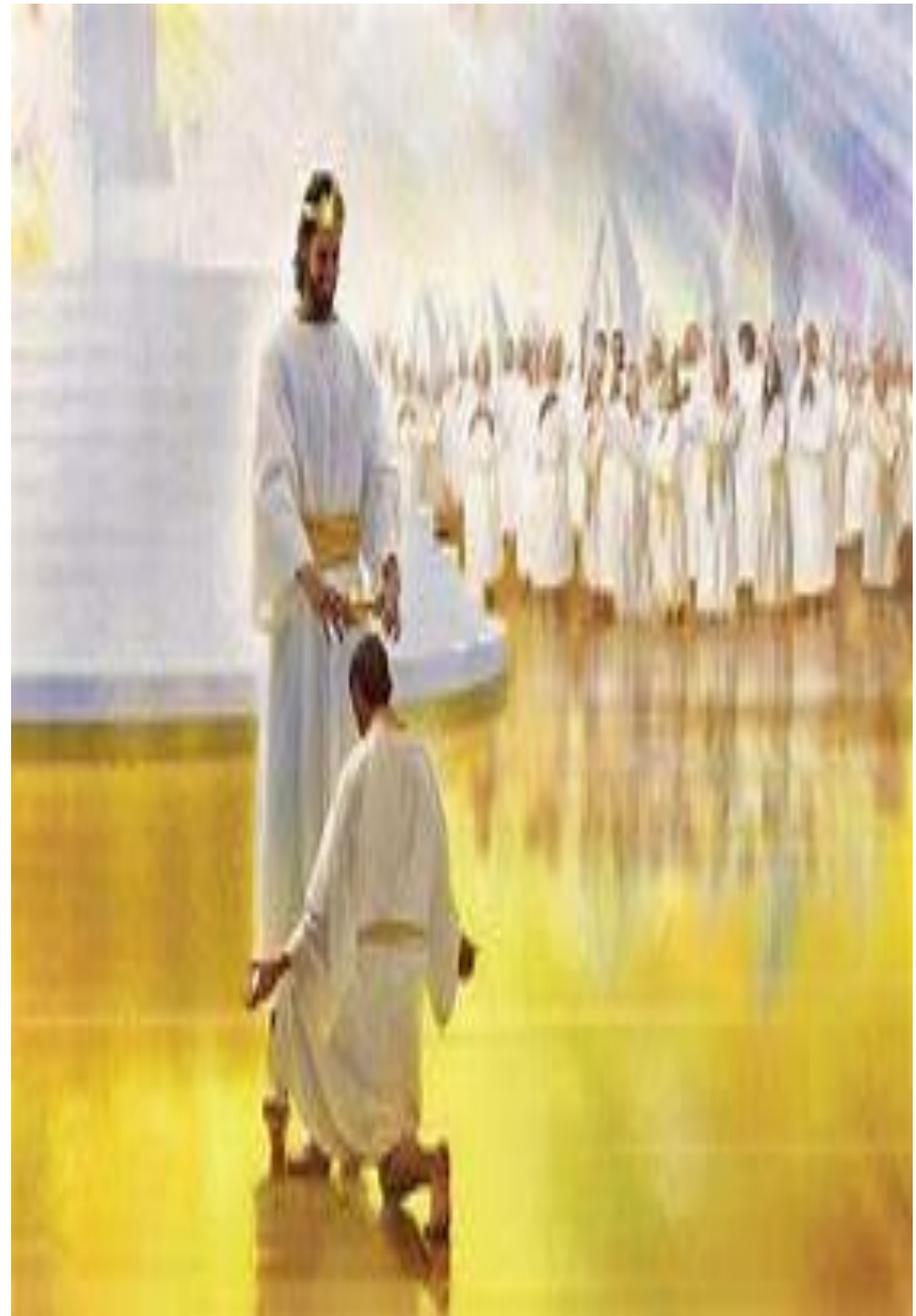
ATTITUDE #2: REJOICE IN SUFFERING

1PETER 4:13-14

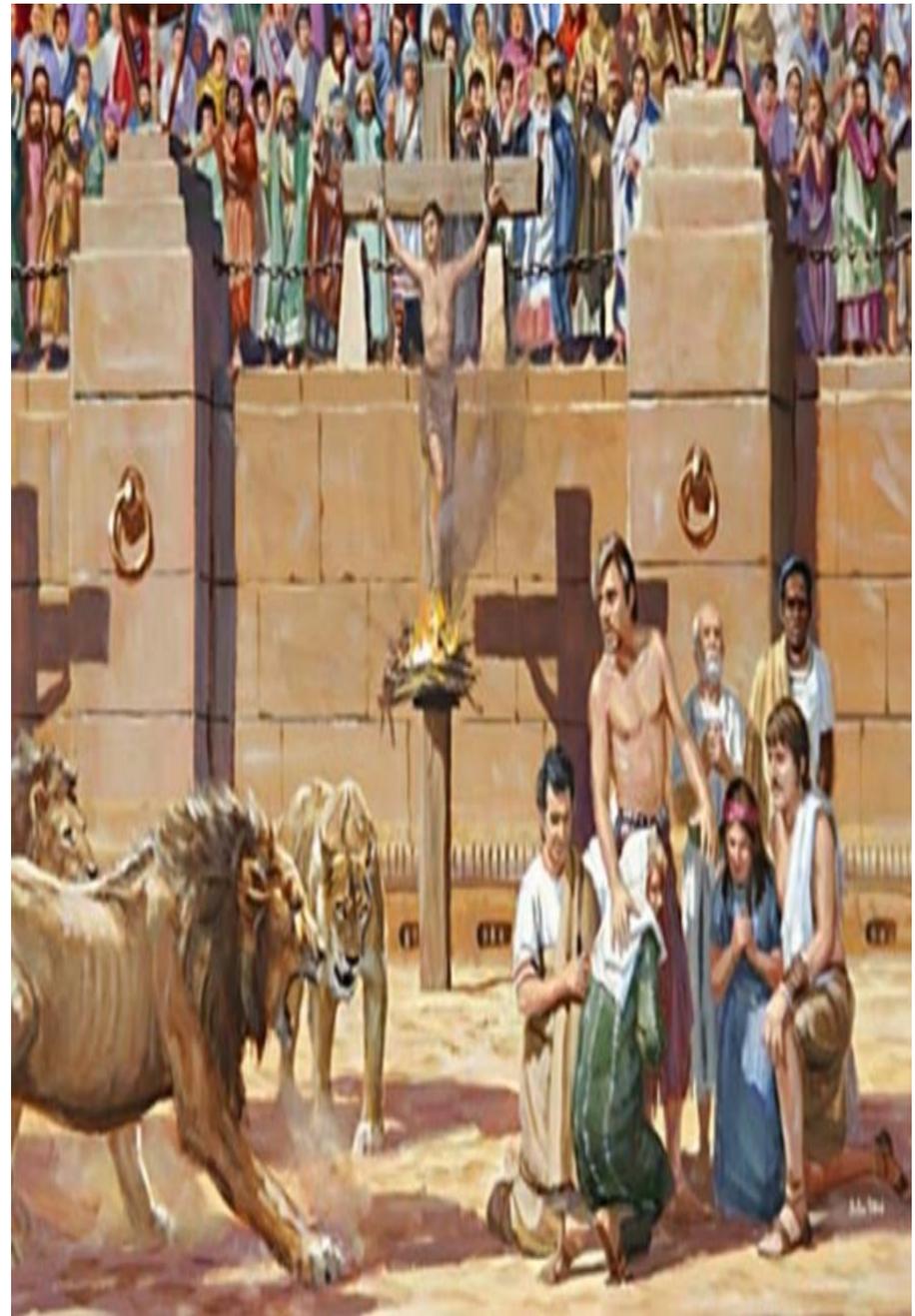
- **Reason #1:** Our suffering for the cause of Christ means **fellowship** with Christ .
 - We partake of Christ’s sufferings.
 - That is, we identify with Him and He identifies with us in standing for that which is right, good, and godly.
 - It is an honor and a privilege to suffer “with” Christ for His name’s sake.



- **Reason #2:** Our suffering for the cause of Christ leads to an expectation of exceeding joy at the future revelation of Christ.
 - Christ, for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God (Heb.12:2)
 - When the glory of Christ is revealed, it would have been an honor and a privilege to suffer for His name sake.
 - The cross that gave Jesus shame and pain also brought power and glory—our suffering for the cause of Christ will likewise bring joy and glory!!



- **Reason #3:** Our suffering for the cause of Christ brings upon us a special ministry of the Holy Spirit.
 - If we are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are we, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon us.
 - This **implies** that we have a special ministry from the Spirit of God which give affirmation and confidence that a distinction was made between living for the Lord and living in rebellion and hostility to the Lord.
 - In this way, we can endure any type of suffering for the cause of Christ with confidence and without complaining, know that glory is being given to God.



ATTITUDE #3: EXAMINE YOURSELF WHILE SUFFERING 1PETER 4:15-16

- **Examination #1:** Why am I suffering ?
 - **Question #1:** Am I suffering because I am a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or a busybody in other people's business?
 - **Question #2:** Am I suffering because I took a stand for Christ on a moral, ethical, and biblical issue?
 - **Warning:** Most suffering is the result of immoral, unethical, illegal, and unwise decisions and actions.



- **Examination #2:** Am I ashamed of Christ or am I glorifying Christ ?
 - **Question #1:** Did I compromise due to peer-pressure and intimidation (giving the unsaved an excuse to reject Christ, ridicule the church and the saints, and live in wickedness)?
 - **Question #2:** Did I take a stand based upon consciousness towards God?
 - **Warning:** “Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of Me and of My words, in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when He cometh in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.” (cf., Mark 8:38).

I WILL NEVER
APOLOGIZE
FOR BEING
A CHRISTIAN

ATTITUDE #4: COMMIT YOURSELF TO GOD IN SUFFERING. 1PETER 4:17-19

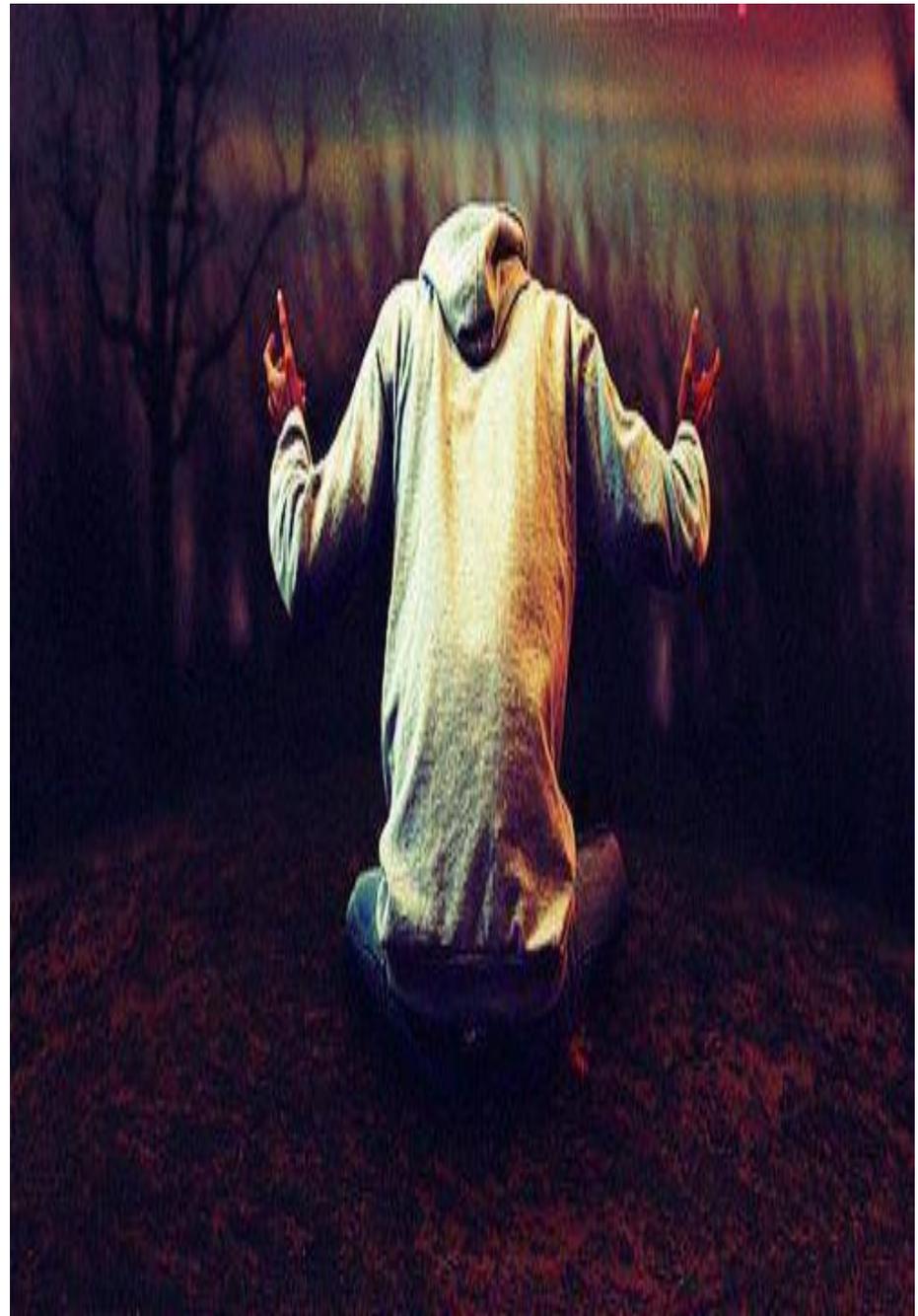
- **Fact #1:** All believers will be responsible and accountable to God for how they live for the Lord in this earthly life.
 - The time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God—to try and refine His “house” to growth and maturity.
 - This is NOT for condemnation and punishment (that was dealt with at the cross of Christ)
 - This implies **chastisement** in this life for sin within the house of God.
 - This implies **accountability** at the Judgment Seat of Christ for the things done for the cause of Christ (cf., 1Cor.3:10-15; 2Cor.5:10)



- **Fact #2:** Whatever suffering the believer endures, it will be a lot worse for the unsaved when the judgment of God falls upon him.
 - If God sends a “fiery trial” upon His own children (for discipline, or to stand for the truth of the gospel), what will happen to those that obey not the gospel of God when God sends to them His fiery judgment?
 - If the righteous are scarcely saved (with discipline or for testimony sake), where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?
 - **Illustration:** Even if God whips me for allowing sin into my life, it will be a whole lot worse for the one who had rejected Him, for there will be no escape when they must face the difficulties of the eternal wrath of God!!



- **Fact #3:** Those who suffer for the cause of Christ, according to the will of God, are to commit their souls to Him.
 - Many times, it is the will of God for some of us to suffer for the cause of Christ.
 - When we are called upon to suffer for the cause of Christ, we are to do so without grumbling, murmuring, and complaining; we are to trust God's wisdom, faithfulness, and purpose for our suffering.
 - When are called upon to suffer for the cause of Christ, we can have the assurance that God is a faithful Creator (e.g., faithful to guide, to protect, to preserve, to sustain, to provide, to encourage, to strengthen, and to keep His promises).



A CHALLENGE FOR YOU

- Are you prepared to take a serious stand for the cause of Christ?



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.