

Get Ready

1 Peter 3:13–17

Introduction

It was 23 years ago, that we found ourselves in a world of panic over Y2K. The world was going to end because all the computer systems were going to shut down.

Y2K is the shorthand term for "the year 2000." Y2K was commonly used to refer to a widespread computer programming shortcut that was expected to cause extensive havoc as the year changed from 1999 to 2000. Instead of allowing four digits for the year, many computer programs only allowed two digits (e.g., 99 instead of 1999). As a result, there was immense panic that computers would be unable to operate at the turn of the millennium when the date descended from "99" to "00".

In the years and months leading up to the turn of the millennium, computer experts and financial analysts feared that the switch from the two-digit year '99 to '00 would wreak havoc on computer systems ranging from airline reservations to financial databases to government systems. Millions of dollars were spent in the lead-up to Y2K in IT and software development to create patches and workarounds to squash the bug.

The research firm Gartner estimated that the global costs to fix the bug were expected to be between \$300 billion to \$600 billion

While there were a few minor issues once Jan. 1, 2000, arrived, there were no massive malfunctions. Some people attribute the smooth transition to major efforts undertaken by businesses and government organizations to correct the Y2K bug in advance. Others say that the problem was overstated and wouldn't have caused significant problems regardless <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/y/y2k.asp>

Then came 9-11 in 2001, and everyone knows where they were when they got word or saw the 2nd plane fly into the second building in New York. In response, the United States entered into the longest war ever fought on foreign soil. Many of our men and women died in the attacks and the war afterward.

In 2008 Lehman brothers Global financial services went belly up and we saw the beginning of the 2008 financial housing collapse. But that was not the end of a roller coaster ride of unprecedented events. In the fall of 2019 some people in China came down with a sickness unlike anything we had

seen before. A novel Coronavirus, later known as Covid 19 would infect the planet. 1000s would die and we would all be told to shutdown, lockdown and mask up. Businesses closed, churches closed their doors, Sporting events were stopped. The 2020 Summer Olympic games were delayed. Worse yet, members of the family were forbidden to visit their loved one in the Hospital who had Covid. It was for many a very dark and fearful time. Depression and suicide skyrocketed.

But this was not all. In the last 2 decades we witnessed the popular emergence of the seeker sensitive mega church. The dumbing down of doctrine and the continuing escalation of apostasy. The Woke ideology of social justice and critical race found a home in the culture and in large Protestant denominations. Churches and leaders began capitulating and compromising on core moral and ethical truths found in scripture. The theme was not, “Has God said” but, “Has God really said”.

The church that was once the pillar and ground of the truth was now a crumbling and cracked edifice with little to no resemble of the church of earlier days.

At the same time of one of the most dangerous times of compromise of the church, there has been a significant rise of persecution of believers throughout the world and the United States.

More than 340 million Christians worldwide experienced high levels of persecution in 2020, with 4,761 killed for their faith, a new report has revealed.

The annual World Watch List produced by Christian charity Open Doors showed this is a huge increase on previous years; the 2019 figure was around 260 million.

For the first time, the charity categorized all of the 50 worst countries in the world as exhibiting “very high” or “extreme” levels of persecution towards Christians – affecting 309 million people.

<https://www.christian.org.uk/news/huge-rise-in-christian-persecution-worldwide-revealed-in-2021-world-watch-list/>

More Christians have died for their faith in the last 100 years than in all the other centuries combined.

<https://billygraham.org/answer/i-read-the-other-day-that-more-christians-have-died-for-their-faith-in-the-last-100-years-than-in-all-the-other-centuries-combined-is-that-true/>

[Newsweek reported in January 2018](#) that “the persecution and genocide of Christians across the world is worse today than at any time in history.”

In Egypt, [Christian Coptic women are targeted](#), kidnapped and forced to convert to Islam and sold as domestic servants where they are sexually exploited and physically abused. Just last year, [drug cartels killed 23 Christian](#)

[leaders in Mexico](#) and four in Colombia specifically for their faith and standing up against the cartel's criminal activity in the country. On Mother's Day in Indonesia, an Islamic family launched a suicide bombing attack on three churches, killing 10 people and severely injuring another 40

Additionally, the Chinese government has started a systematic campaign to destroy church buildings and all Christianity-related structures, beginning with the demolition of one of the largest churches in China where over 50,000 Christians worshipped every week.

`In 2017 alone, the killings of Christians in Nigeria increased more than 62 percent. In the city of Onitsha in southern Nigeria, a radical gunman attacked a church killing 12 of its members and injuring an additional 18. In the Nigerian state of Kebbi, church leaders were arrested and sentenced to three years in prison.

Although there are many who we would not identify as orthodox believers or evangelicals that have died. The point is that they have identified as a christian or a follower of Christ and have lost there life for it. There is a notable and tremendously troubling rise of persecutions of those who call themselves Christians throughout the world. The

worse of it being in North Korea, China and a large section of the Islamic nations.

For years the most we here in America would know of persecution was what we read about or heard of in lands overseas. There would be the period but rare event where a church or christian group or person would be in the news for there unwillingness to compromise on the ten commandments in a courtroom or a manger scene erected in a public place. But for the most part that was about it. No one shot, or jailed or beaten for their faith. Mostly we where made fun of or mocked as fundamentalist, Bible thumpers.

But that is all changed. It is a new hostile world for any vocal Christian. In the last 15 years the attempts to silence the christian community is off the charts. We are in a different time, a different culture, a dangerous season. The years of parents raising an ungodly seed, has finally sprouted and the plant has lots of thorns and is deadly.

The hatred for Christians and particularly christian doctrine is boiling over. All it needs is an opportunity and a platform to speak and the hatred spews forth.

As I told you a few weeks ago, the persecution and hatred that we see today is not because we are christians, it is because of what that stands for.

And it's not because of the cardinal doctrines, like Monotheism, or Jesus is the God, or Salvation is apart from works, or Jesus is the only way.

No one really cares what you believe about those things in this religious pluralism. This has been reflected in the last few surveys of the diminishing doctrinal distinctives that people, even professed christians care about.

But what our culture really cares about is the license to sin. You can talk about your Theology proper all day long and debate your views of Eschatology, but just don't tell me that it is wrong for a man to marry a man or a man can't be a woman, or that I can't kill my baby when I want to before or immediately after birth. Don't tell me that there is a right and a wrong, or that there is judgment to come or that I will be held accountable.

Don't judge me, lest you be judged. Stay out of my business and what I do is my own business. What I do with my body and to my body is my choice.

This is the line in the sand, the watershed issues that will divide the believers and will continue to

show what church and which christians will compromise and which will not.

Just Friday a news article stated Outspoken singer [M.I.A. claimed](#) her profession of faith in Jesus Christ garnered her more backlash than any other statement she's made.

"The fact that the biggest back lash in my career and life I'm facing after saying '[Jesus is real](#)' is such a revelation to me. <https://www.foxnews.com/media/singer-m-i-a-says-she-faced-biggest-backlash-career-saying-jesus-real>

- [Jack Phillips](#), the baker, has been harassed for over a decade, bombarded with requests to make the most profane cakes, and dragged in and out of court simply for trying to run his business as a Christian (persecution that [continues](#) despite his having prevailed at the Supreme Court).
- [Barronelle Stutzman](#), a florist, was eventually forced into retirement because she also refused to compromise on her traditional Christian faith commitments and participate in the celebration of sin.
- [Coach Joe Kennedy](#) was fired for exercising his First Amendment rights to pray to God in public. It took him almost seven years to fight to undo this unjust persecution, prevailing only when the Supreme Court ruled that “a government entity sought to punish an

individual for engaging in a brief, quiet, personal religious observance doubly protected by the Free Exercise and Free Speech Clauses of the First Amendment...the Constitution neither mandates nor tolerates that kind of discrimination.”

Even [crisis pregnancy centers](#), many of them run by Christians, are under attack because they promote life, rather than death. Since early May, when the *Dobbs* decision was leaked suggesting that *Roe v. Wade* would be overturned, they have been threatened, vandalized, and firebombed. <https://www.christianpost.com/news/yes-christians-are-being-persecuted-in-america.html>

Just like many campus colleges, public schools are getting hit as well. Student groups like InterVarsity have been kicked off campuses, and a teacher in New Jersey was suspended for giving a student a Bible.

Many Christian colleges themselves also have been in jeopardy lately. Recently, some have been asked to conform to secularist ideology or they will lose their accreditation. Traditional evangelical schools like [Gordon College in Massachusetts](#) and Kings College in New York are having their accreditation questioned. Some secularists are arguing that Christian colleges should never deserve accreditation, period.

<https://www.beliefnet.com/news/is-there-christian-persecution-in-america.aspx>

A Phoenix pastor who was jailed for holding a Bible study group on his private property is now holding one behind bars.

Michael Salman is serving a 60-day sentence in Maricopa County's notorious Tent City jail for allegedly violating his probation by holding religious services on his property in violation of zoning and building codes. He was arrested July 9, after authorities charged the one-time gang member hosted Bible sessions for as many 80 people on his 4-acre property, which he tried to claim as a tax-exempt church. <https://www.foxnews.com/us/arizona-man-sent-to-jail-for-holding-bible-studies-in-his-home>

Hundreds signed a petition calling for a ban on "[hate speech](#)" at school board meetings after one parent quoted the Bible in his public comments criticizing the board.

At the Dec. 13 school board meeting, many parents demanded board members resign, in the wake of a grand jury report that indicted the former superintendent and another school official for their handling of sexual assaults.

The school's [transgender policy](#) has been a focal point of criticism by parents after two female students were sexually assaulted by a boy wearing a skirt in 2021.

During the public comment section, one speaker accused the board of promoting "immoral" behavior that was against God's "design" and "natural order."

"[LGBT] behaviors should never have been promoted, taught, or encouraged in the schools that you oversee," Mark Winn said, before paraphrasing Jesus in the Gospels.

"If any man or woman causes one of these little ones to stumble, it would be better for [them] if a millstone to be put around your neck and thrown into the lake," Winn said, adding, "Get back to reading, writing and arithmetic and quit grooming and pimping."

Those comments provoked 19-year-old Loudoun County community organizer Andrew Pihonak to start a petition banning "hate speech" at future school board meetings.

[Pihonak's petition](https://www.foxnews.com/media/petition-seeks-ban-hate-speech-loudoun-county-school-board-meetings) currently has 873 signatures and says comments like Winn's "empower people to commit acts of violence" against the LGBTQ+ community. <https://www.foxnews.com/media/petition-seeks-ban-hate-speech-loudoun-county-school-board-meetings>

Check out recent headlines. See a pattern?

- Elderly Woman Shot While Campaigning Against Pro-Abortion proposal

- Christian family ORDERED to believe boys can be girls and vice versa
- Christian Teacher Fired After Raising ‘Concern’ Over LGBT Book Read to Young Kids
- Walmart: We’re Not Comfortable Selling to Pro-Life Ministry
- The military is ignoring the law regarding religious exemptions
- Culture War Erupts in Texas Town Over Drag Bingo Event Hosted by Christian Church
- Crime Against Pro-Life Centers ‘Will Become Routine’ Without Prosecution
- A federal judge ruled public prayer is unconstitutional
- H.R. 8404 effectively deputizes activist groups to sue religious individuals
- Christian School attacked for posting standards of conduct
- Biden’s “Disinformation Governance Board” targets pro-life centers
- The Left wants the IRS to investigate the tax-exempt status of religious organizations
- Fired for His Faith, an Austin Fire Department Chaplain Fights Back
- COVID rule-resisting Canadian pastor criminally charged

<https://clashdaily.com/2022/10/more-than-a-dozen-examples-of-christian-persecution-in-america/>

There is no reason that I can see that we should expect this to get better. It will only get worse as we witness the Judgement of God on this nation and the churches. We have been cooking this for years and now the dish is being deliver by the devil himself. We need to Get Ready, Get prepared. For all you preppers....I'm not talking about storing food, or burying your money or getting more bullets. This is much more important than that. I'm talking about spiritual preparation.... getting ready for the intensification of hatred and persecution of the conservative evangelical Christian.

1 Peter 3:13–17 (NKJV)

¹³ And who *is* he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, *you are blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled."* ¹⁵ But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be ready to give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; ¹⁶ having a good conscience, that when they defame you as

evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. ¹⁷ For *it is* better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

- I. An Unexpected Reaction.
- II. An Expected Response.
- III. An Anticipated Readiness
- IV. An Animated Result
- V. An Exalted Reason

I. An Unexpected Reaction.

¹³ And who *is* he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good?

To understand the reason for this statement, we need to consider the context

1 Peter 3:8–12 (LSB)

- 8 Now to sum up, all of you be like-minded,
sympathetic, brotherly, tender-hearted, and
humble in spirit;
- 9 not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling,
but giving a blessing instead, for you were called
for the very purpose that you might inherit a
blessing.
- 10 For,
“THE ONE WHO DESIRES LIFE, TO LOVE
AND SEE GOOD DAYS,
MUST KEEP HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND
HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT.
- 11 “HE MUST TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO
GOOD;
HE MUST SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT.
- 12 “FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE
TOWARD THE RIGHTEOUS,
AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER,
BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST
THOSE WHO DO EVIL.”

The person who would respond to evil attacks by returning good and turning from evil to pursue peace and willing to do good should expect a better life, more love and a good days.

After all....

“who will harm you if you become a person zealous of what is good.”

In other words, for those who do good and not evil and respond to persecution and evil accusations with goodwill and peace should not expect evil in return.

The rhetorical question, expects shock that someone would suffer for doing good to others.

“Who is going to **harm** you if you are eager to do good?”

Based on our experience and sense of justice, the question expects a strong negative answer. The interrogative “who” (*tis*), together with the articular participle (*ho kakōsōn*, “the one who will harm”), seeks the identity of the individual who would thus react to the practice of goodness.

Hiebert, D. E. (1997). [1 Peter](#) (p. 221). BMH Books.

harm 20.12 κακόω; κάκωσις, εως *f*; κακοποιέω^b; βλάπτω: to cause harm or injury to someone or something (a highly generic meaning involving a wide range of harm and injury) — ‘to harm, to hurt, to injure

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). In [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 228). United Bible Societies.

The verb “harm” (*kakoō*) continues the concept of evil (*kakos*, v. 12) that lies at the root of Christian suffering. The verb denotes mistreatment and implies that real damage is done through such actions. Elsewhere in the New Testament, the verb occurs only in Acts where it is used of the oppression of the Israelites by the Egyptians (7:6, 19) and of antagonism toward the church—expressed either in active persecution (12:1; 18:10) or in vicious attitudes toward believers (14:2). Here the term includes any hostile and injurious attitude or activity that produces essential damage.

Hiebert, D. E. (1997). [1 Peter](#) (p. 222). BMH Books.

13 And who *is* he who will harm you if you become **followers** of what is **good**?

The KJV reading, “followers” (*mimētai*, literally “imitators”), follows the variant reading of the Textus Receptus. That reading is not as well supported.

Hiebert, D. E. (1997). [1 Peter](#) (p. 223). BMH Books.

1 Peter 3:13 (LSB)

13 And who is there to harm you **if you prove zealous** for what is good?

25.77 **ζηλωτής**^a, οὐ *m*: one who is deeply committed to something and therefore zealous—‘enthusiast, zealous person.’ ζηλωτής ὑπάρχων τοῦ θεοῦ καθὼς πάντες ὑμεῖς ἐστε σήμερον ‘being deeply committed to God even as all of you are today’ Ac 22:3.

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). In [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 297). United Bible Societies.

“A burning desire to do what is right is the sure indication that one has experienced the goodness of God. Those who love goodness are, by that very love, freed from the fascination of evil.” The condition is not an occasional good deed, but being “eager” (*zēlōtai*, literally “zealots”) of the good. The use of the noun rather than the adjective implies not merely the possession of zeal but its active embodiment in the readers’ lives. It conveys “the idea of wholeheartedness and singleness of purpose.” They had become “enthusiasts” for the doing of good. Moffatt paraphrases, “If you have a

passion for goodness.” They aggressively seek to perform the good. Ellison shrewdly observes, “We are far more likely to suffer, if we are zealous for other people to do right, than if the zeal is applied to our own lives.”

Hiebert, D. E. (1997). [1 Peter](#) (pp. 222–223). BMH Books. **88.1** ἀγαθός^a, ἡ, ὄν; ἀγαθωσύνη^a, ης *f*: positive moral qualities of the most general nature—‘good, goodness, good act.’

ἀγαθός^a: τί ἀγαθὸν ποιήσω ἵνα σχῶ ζωὴν αἰώνιον; ‘what good thing must I do to receive eternal life?’ Mt 19:16.

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). In [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 741). United Bible Societies.

That which they zealously promoted is indicated as “good” (*tou agathou*, “of the good”), an articular adjective used as a noun. It stands emphatically at the head of the conditional clause, “If of the good zealots ye may have become.” The emphasis strengthens the contrast between doing harm and doing good. The neuter singular sums up and presents as a unit “all the various forms of moral excellence which have been spoken of separately in vv. 10, 11.” Christian goodness has a unitary character.

Some commentators have taken *tou agathou* as masculine—“the Good One”—understood as a

reference to Christ. Thus Robert Young translated, “if of Him who is good ye may become imitators,” but that view is likely only if the inferior reading “imitators” is adopted, a reading that Alford suggested may have arisen as a reminiscence of 3 John 11 in the mind of some scribe.

Hiebert, D. E. (1997). [1 Peter](#) (p. 223). BMH Books.

it is still true that normally a life of active beneficence toward others disarms those who might otherwise be hostile. So understood, the emphasis is that anyone who is actually disposed to injure those who help others is acting in a perverted way.

Hiebert, D. E. (1997). [1 Peter](#) (p. 222). BMH Books.

Even today, in the violent culture that is less and less tolerant of Christianity, do we expect someone to be harmed for doing good to others. People most normally respond to kindness with kindness. Even the worst pagans and unbelievers of our culture generally respond positively to someone doing good to others.

Its like this past Christmas.... you can see example after example of people giving gifts to poor, destitute people in the name of Christ and no harm

is done, but rather praise is given.... In this last frigid cold we had, we read of others who would risk their life to help the homeless find shelter or the elderly have heat, some in a generic way others in the name of Christ.

Churches opened their doors to give a warm place for people to stay.

We see examples all year of good done to others in the name of Christ with no recourse or hatred in return.

This is Peter's point. It is abnormal, even a fallen world to expect harm in return for someone who does good for others.

I. An Unexpected Reaction.

II. An Expected Response.

14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, *you are blessed.*
“And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.”

14 But even if you should suffer

Peter did not promise his readers that they would escape such suffering. The teaching of Jesus, his own experience, as well as his insight into the perversity of human nature, made him fully aware that there were exceptions. His very purpose in writing was to prepare his readers for such experiences.

Hiebert, D. E. (1997). [1 Peter](#) (pp. 221–222). BMH Books.

1 Peter 2:19–21 (NKJV)

¹⁹ For this *is* commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully.

²⁰ For what credit *is it* if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this *is* commendable before God. ²¹ For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

1 Peter 4:12–17 (NKJV)

¹² Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³ but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. ¹⁴ If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed *are you*, for the Spirit of glory and

of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. ¹⁶ Yet if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

¹⁷ For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

Jeremiah 15:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ O Lord, You know;
Remember me and visit me,
And take vengeance for me on my persecutors.
In Your enduring patience, do not take me away.
Know that for Your sake I have suffered rebuke.

Matthew 5:10–11 (NKJV)

¹⁰ 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.

Matthew 10:18–24 (NKJV)

¹⁸ You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.

¹⁹ But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; ²⁰ for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

²¹ “Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death.

²² And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.

²³ When they persecute you in this city, flee to another. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

²⁴ “A disciple is not above *his* teacher, nor a servant above his master.

Acts 9:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.”

Philippians 1:29 (NKJV)

²⁹ For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

14 **But** even if you should **suffer** for righteousness' sake, *you are* blessed. *“And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.”*

But even if

“But” (*alla*) marks a strong antithesis

Hiebert, D. E. (1997). [1 Peter](#) (p. 223). BMH Books.

The verb **“suffer”** (*paschō*) is more general in meaning than “harm” (*kakoō*) in verse 13; it occurs no less than twelve times in 1 Peter, more often than in any other New Testament book. It means to experience something that falls to one’s lot, whether good or ill. Only in Galatians 3:4 does it refer to a pleasant experience. In all of its forty-one other occurrences, it denotes an unpleasant or hurtful experience of some kind. Though the suffering of death may be involved, generally lesser forms of suffering are denoted, such as

those mentioned by Jesus in Matthew 5:11: “when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kind of evil against you because of me.” The use of the present tense indicates that such experiences may be the repeated lot of Christians.

Hiebert, D. E. (1997). [1 Peter](#) (p. 223). BMH Books.

for righteousness’ sake

tn *Grk* “because of righteousness

Biblical Studies Press. (2005). [The NET Bible First Edition; Bible. English. NET Bible.; The NET Bible](#). Biblical Studies Press.

δικαιοσύνη^a, ης *f*: the act of doing what God requires—‘righteousness, doing what God requires, doing what is right.’ μακάριοι οἱ δεδιωγμένοι ἕνεκεν δικαιοσύνης ‘happy are those who suffer persecution because of their doing what God requires’ Mt 5:10.

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). In [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 743). United Bible Societies.

Hebrews 1:9 (NKJV)

Is there a difference here in the text of good things and righteous things

Generally—no. But specifically— — yes

The Salvation army does good things
The Mormon church can do good things
The Catholic church does good things
Lost people can do good things.

But are they righteous things, in the sense that they are done in obedience to the Laws of God for The Glory of God and the sake of Christ Name?

We would have to say NO.

Not every person can do righteousness which is pleasing to God.

The righteousness of a lost person is filthy rags in God's sight.

Biblical Righteousness is uniquely tied to Christ and the Law of God and Scripture.

2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

2 Timothy 2:22 (NKJV)

²² Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

1 Timothy 6:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

Hebrews 1:9

⁹ *You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.”*

1 John 3:4–7 (NKJV)

⁴ Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. ⁵ And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. ⁶ Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.

⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

I might be slicing the pie pieces a little thin here to make my point, I believe that this is more of what Peter has in mind.

Not just a general good deed that is done by the lost and saved.

But that which is uniquely tied to Christ, the law and the whole of Scripture.

Here is the point I'm driving at.... If all Christians were guilty of just doing good deeds....i.e. helping the poor, building hospitals, delivering food to the needy, handing out gifts at Christmas, being good employees, not drinking, smoking or cursing. Being faithful to our wives and husbands, taking care of and providing for our families, going to church, tipping the waitress good at the restaurant, helping a neighbor with his broken pipe, etc.....

NO one would care. All the more power to you.

The problems come when we open our mouths and start talking about the Bible and what it says and the commandments it gives and then the problems get worse, when we won't bend to the demands of the culture because of the Word of God and when we call on the world around us to repent of the sin as defined in the Bible.

We would be fine if we would just keep our mouth shut.

Think of it this way. How many times have you not said something you know the Bible says so you can keep the peace or keep your job. We know what it is

to compromise and keep our mouth shut to avoid suffering and persecution. In fact, that is what I believe that has caused such a rapid decline in our culture.....too many christians who zip their lips when it comes to the things that biblically wrong.

It was not the coming of Christ as a baby in the manger that was a problem. It was not a problem when He became a young man helping Joseph in his work. It wasn't even a problem when He shows up at the Baptism to fulfill all righteousness and be baptized.

All the problems started when
as it says in Matthew

Matthew 5:1–2 (NKJV)

5 And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. ² Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

Then, all hell broke forth, men got mad, stones where picked up to throw, demons raged, and the religious plotted to kill him.....

Jesus was the most compassionate, kind loving, caring, long-suffering, patience person who every

walked on this planet. He did more good than anyone has ever done because his good was not just temporary but eternal.

But this very good person who did good deeds, they slaughtered on a tree!! They hated Him with the vilest affecting. They lusted for his death and despised him with every fiber of their being. But it wasn't the good that he did that caused it...It was what He said.

John 10:27–33 (NKJV)

27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. 30 I and My Father are one."

31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. 32 Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?"

33 The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."

John 5:17–18 (NKJV)

¹⁷ But Jesus answered them, “My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.”

¹⁸ Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.

John 8:58–59 (NKJV)

⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”

⁵⁹ Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

But also the reason they wanted Him dead is He confronted their hypocrisy. He internalized the Law of God. He clarified true Righteousness. He confronted their sin. He condemned them to Hell. He pronounced judgement. He exposed their lies. He rejected their teachings and destroyed their authority.

By the way, He did what most preachers won't do and what very few Christians have the courage to do. He spoke up and said what God says!!!

That is why so many say well, I don't see so much persecution. The reason is that most Christians and preachers don't speak up or they are not clear enough or specific enough to cause someone to think..

It's like John MacArthur said,

“Sometimes, we don't make the gospel clear enough for the non-elect to reject it”

The same is for us.

We don't make the Word of God clear enough for the world to hate us.

But if we are courageous and not compromising and are willing to suffer for Christ, you need to keep in mind

14 **But** even if you should **suffer** for righteousness' sake, *you are* blessed.
“And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.”

1. Remind yourself that you are Blessed

2. Remember who you are to Fear.

3. Reset the Lord in your hearts.

4. Be Ready to Defend the Faith

1. Remind yourself that you are Blessed

14 **But** even if you should **suffer** for righteousness' sake, you are blessed.

The word here translated “blessed” (*makarioi*; cf. 4:14) was used by Jesus (Matt. 5:3–11). To be “blessed” in this context does not mean to “feel delighted” but to be “highly privileged.

Raymer, R. M. (1985). [1 Peter](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 850). Victor Books.

The adjective “blessed” is left without a verb, giving it the force of an exclamation

Hiebert, D. E. (1997). [1 Peter](#) (p. 224). BMH Books.

Matthew 5:10–12 (NKJV)

10 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.

Instead of being an unmitigated evil, such sufferings contribute to the Christian's spiritual well-being and foster a blessedness that reaches into the life beyond. Christians should not be fearful and despairing, but reckon themselves highly privileged: "Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven" (Matt. 5:12). The term "blessed" refers to the "distinctive religious joy which accrues to man from his share in the salvation of the kingdom of God."

Hiebert, D. E. (1997). [1 Peter](#) (p. 224). BMH Books.

tn *Grk* "do not fear their fear," referring to those who cause their suffering. The phrase "their fear" may mean "what they fear" (subjective genitive), but in a situation of persecution it more likely means "fear of them" (objective genitive).
Biblical Studies Press. (2019). [The NET Bible](#) (Second Edition). Thomas Nelson.

tc Most later mss (P \mathfrak{M}) have θεόν (*theon*, “God”) instead of Χριστόν (*Christon*; “Christ”) here. But Χριστόν is widely supported by excellent and early witnesses (\mathfrak{P}^{72} \aleph A B C Ψ 33 1739 *al* latt sy co), and as a less common idiom better explains the rise of the other reading

Biblical Studies Press. (2019). [The NET Bible](#) (Second Edition). Thomas Nelson.

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts,
1 Peter 3:15 (LSB)

15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts,

. In their **hearts** Christians are to **set apart Christ as Lord**. Alexander Maclaren wrote, “Only he who can say, ‘The Lord is the strength of my life’ can go on to say, ‘Of whom shall I be afraid?’” (*Expositions of Holy Scriptures*, 16:42) Christians should overcome fear by sanctifying (*hagiasate*, “make separate from others”) Christ as their Lord (*kyrion*)

Raymer, R. M. (1985). [1 Peter](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 850). Victor Books.

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

16 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

17 For *it is* better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

I. An Unexpected Reaction.

II. An Expected Response.

III. An Anticipated Readiness

IV. An Animated Result

V. An Exalted Reason