



"I knew then that one day I would write this book. I would write it out of my own need to put into words some of the most important things I have come to believe and know. And I would write it to help other people who might one day find themselves in a similar predicament. I would write it for...

Rabbi Harold Kushner, When Bad Things Happen to Good People



"... all those people who wanted to go on believing, but whose anger at God made it hard for them to hold on to their faith and be comforted by religion.

And I would write it for all those people whose love for God and devotion to Him led them to blame themselves for their suffering and persuade themselves that they deserved it."

Rabbi Harold Kushner, When Bad Things Happen to Good People

- "... Is Born" Acts 2:40-47
- "... Is Created for Worship" Rom 12:1-2; I Cor 10:31
- "... Is Entrusted with the Gospel" Rom 3:21-26
- "... Is Making Disciples" Matt 28:16-20
- "... Is a Regular Gathering" Heb 10:24-25
- "... Is Prayerful" Selected Passages in Acts
- "... Is Gifted"- I Cor 12:4-11
- "... Is a Home for Preaching" II Tim 4:1-4
- "... Is Committed to the Ordinances" Selected Passages
- "... Is Committed to Restoring Those Living in Sin" Gal 6:1-3
- "... Is the World's Target

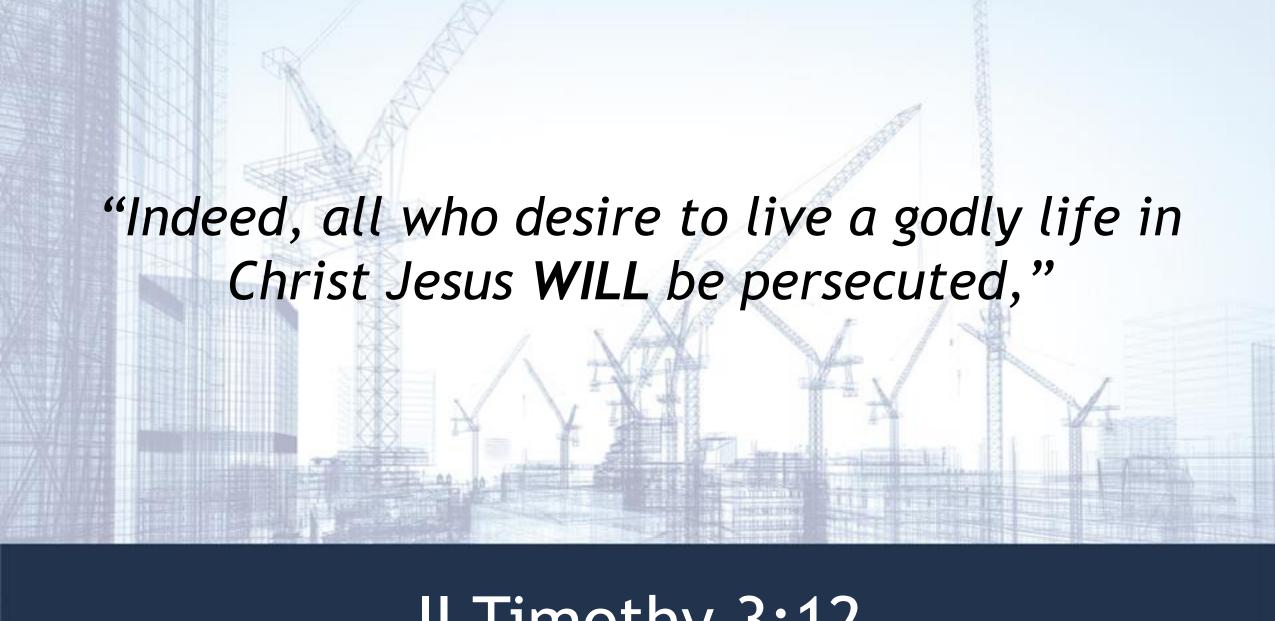
"Under Construction" Series

KEY POINT:

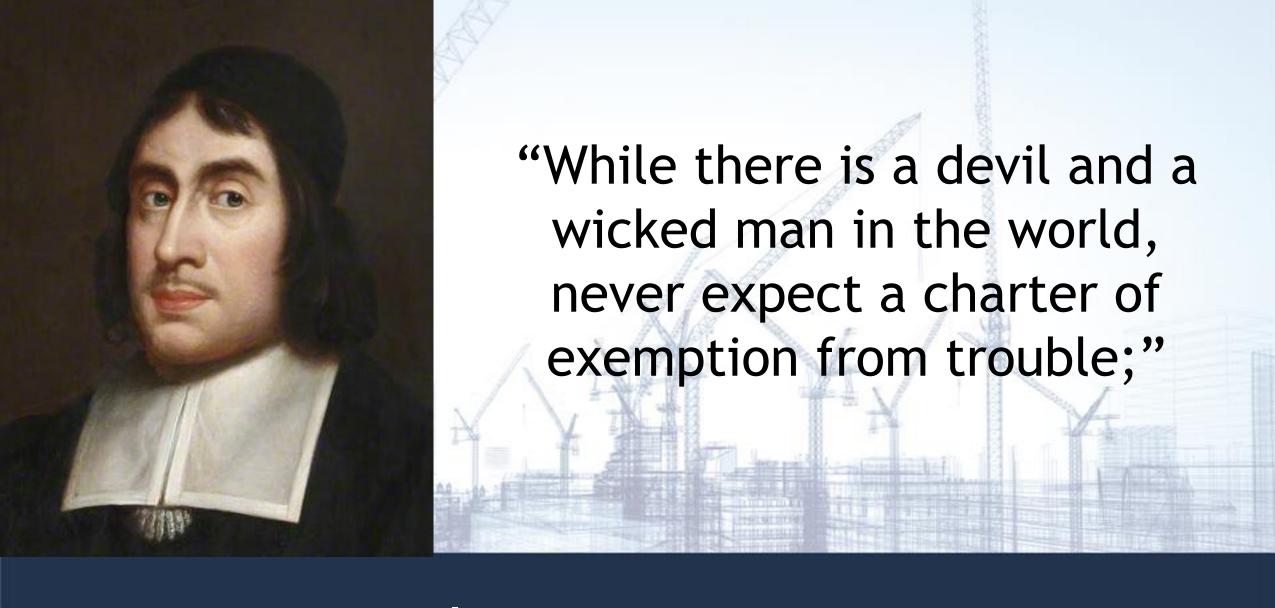
When you commit to Christ, you commit to the likelihood of suffering.

"For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him **BUT ALSO SUFFER** for his sake,"

Philippians 1:29



II Timothy 3:12



Thomas Watson

1. Do not be ashamed of the Gospel (vs. 8a).



4 Directives

"Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity."

I Timothy 4:12

"For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Mark 8:38

1. Do not be ashamed of the Gospel (vs. 8a). 2. Suffer for the Gospel (vs. 8b).

4 Directives

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 5:10

"18 If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours."

John 15:18-20

"8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. 11 For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 So death is at work in us, but life in you."

II Corinthians 4:8-12

"For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,"

Philippians 1:29

- We suffer because He suffered (John 15:18-20).
- We suffer in order to deepen our faith and holiness (II Corinthians 1:8-9; Hebrews 5:8; 12:10).
- We suffer because this world is cursed with sin (Romans 8:18-23).
- We suffer so that God could embolden us in our faith (Philippians 1:14).

Why We Suffer

- We suffer to demonstrate the supremacy of Christ (II Corinthians 1:9; 12:9-10).
- We suffer, at times, because of our own sin (Romans 8:20-22).
- We suffer in order to be a testimony of God's power to others (John 9).
- We suffer so that we might be humbled (II Corinthians 12:7).

Why We Suffer

- We suffer so that God might purify our faith (James 1:2-3).
- We suffer so that we can comfort others who will suffer (II Corinthians 1:3-7).
- We suffer so that we might anticipate heaven (Romans 8:16-17).

Why We Suffer

"Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good."

I Peter 4:19

1. Do not be ashamed of the Gospel (vs. 8a).

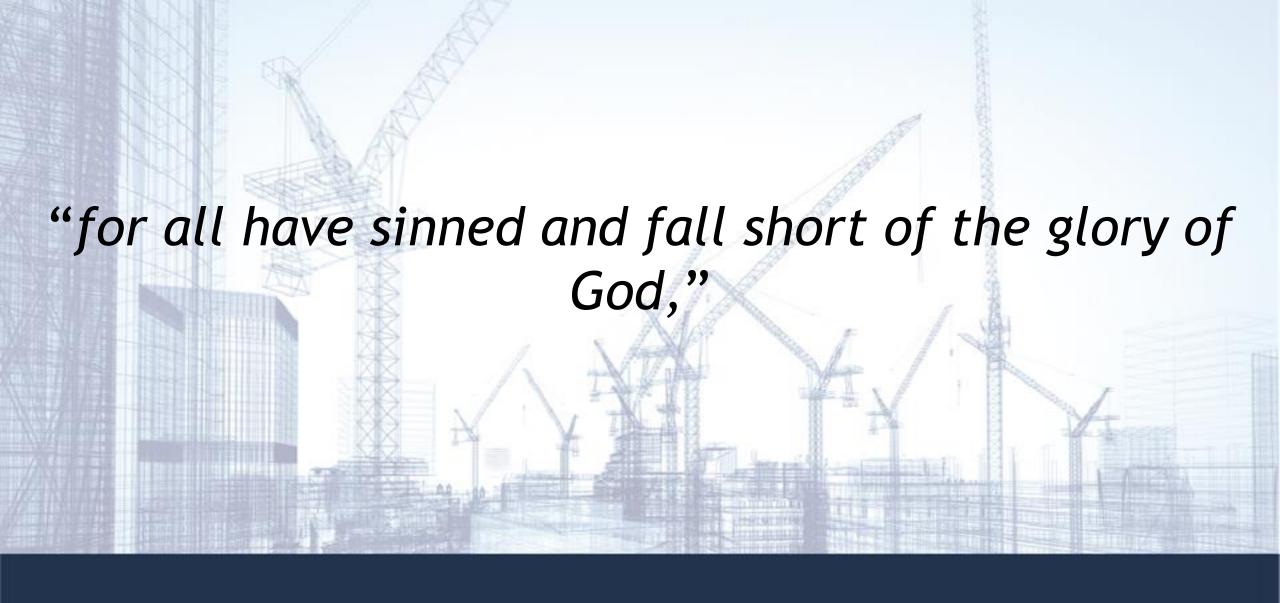
2. Suffer for the Gospel (vs. 8b).

3. Remember who called you (vs. 9-12a).

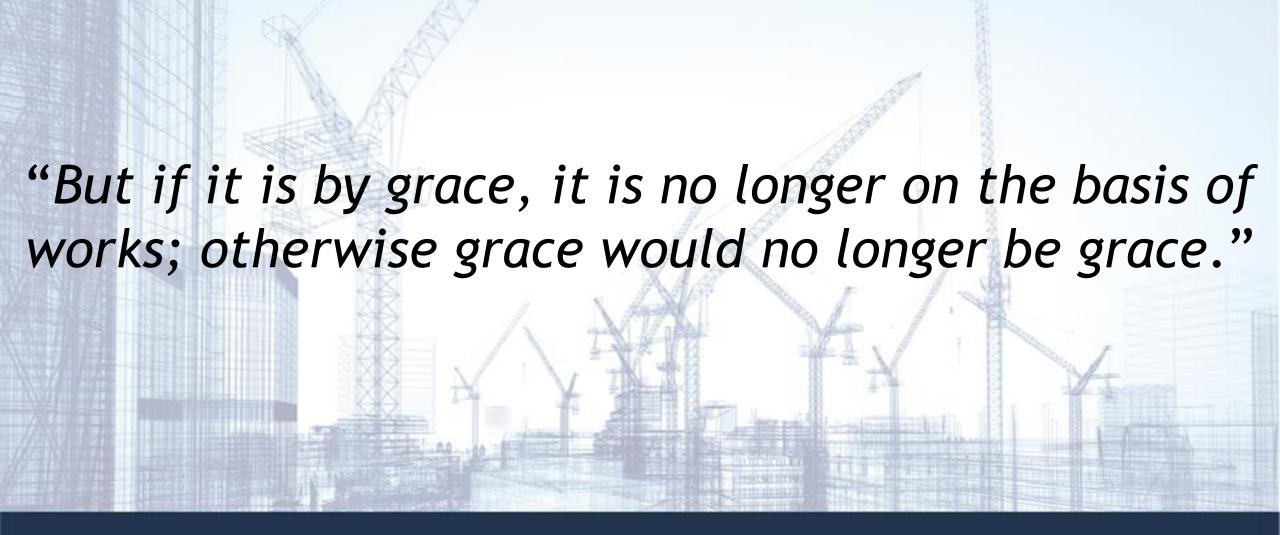
4 Directives

"For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin."

Romans 3:20



Romans 3:23



Romans 11:6

"yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified."

Galatians 2:16

"8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

Ephesians 2:8-9

"he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,"

Titus 3:5

- Over Satan (Job 1)
- Over His angels (Matthew 8:29-32; Mark 1:27)
- Over persecution (I Peter 3:17)
- Over death (James 4:13-16)
- Over natural disasters (Job 1:16-21)
- Over sickness (Acts 10:38)
- Over animals and the planet (Jonah 1:17)
- Over temptation (Luke 22:31-32)
- Over the mind (II Cor 4:4, 6)

God Is Sovereign...

1. Do not be ashamed of the Gospel (vs. 8a).

2. Suffer for the Gospel (vs. 8b).

- 3. Remember who called you (vs. 9-12a).
- 4. Guard the Gospel (vs. 12b-14).

4 Directives

"38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:38-39



"The most solemn responsibility that any believer has, especially those the Lord has called to be preachers and teachers, is to uphold and defend the integrity of His Word."

John MacArthur