

FAITHFULNESS AND COURAGE

PERSECUTION AND ADVERSITY

PREPARING FOR PERSECUTION



PERSECUTION IS PROMISED

Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death. -Rev. 2:10-22

...that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass and just as you know. -Thess. 3:3-4

Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. -Matt. 10:16-18



TYPES OF PERSECUTION IN SCRIPTURE

Insults (1 Peter 4:12-14, Psalm 69)

Slander (Rev. 2:9)

Beating (Isaiah 50:6)

Stoning (Acts 14:19)

Mocking (Luke 23:11)

Ostracism (John 9:22)

Intimidation/threats (Acts 4:21, 29)

Imprisonment (Mark 6:17)

Exile (Revelation 1:9)



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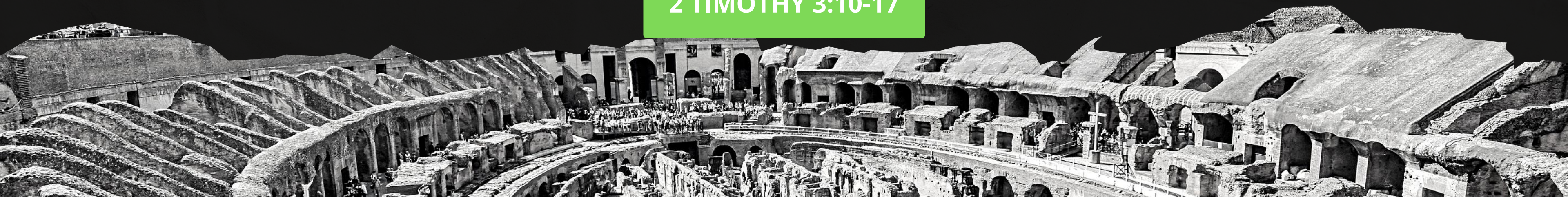
PERSECUTION IS PROMISED

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." -John 16:33

BUT JESUS ALREADY WON

10 You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, 11 my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. 12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

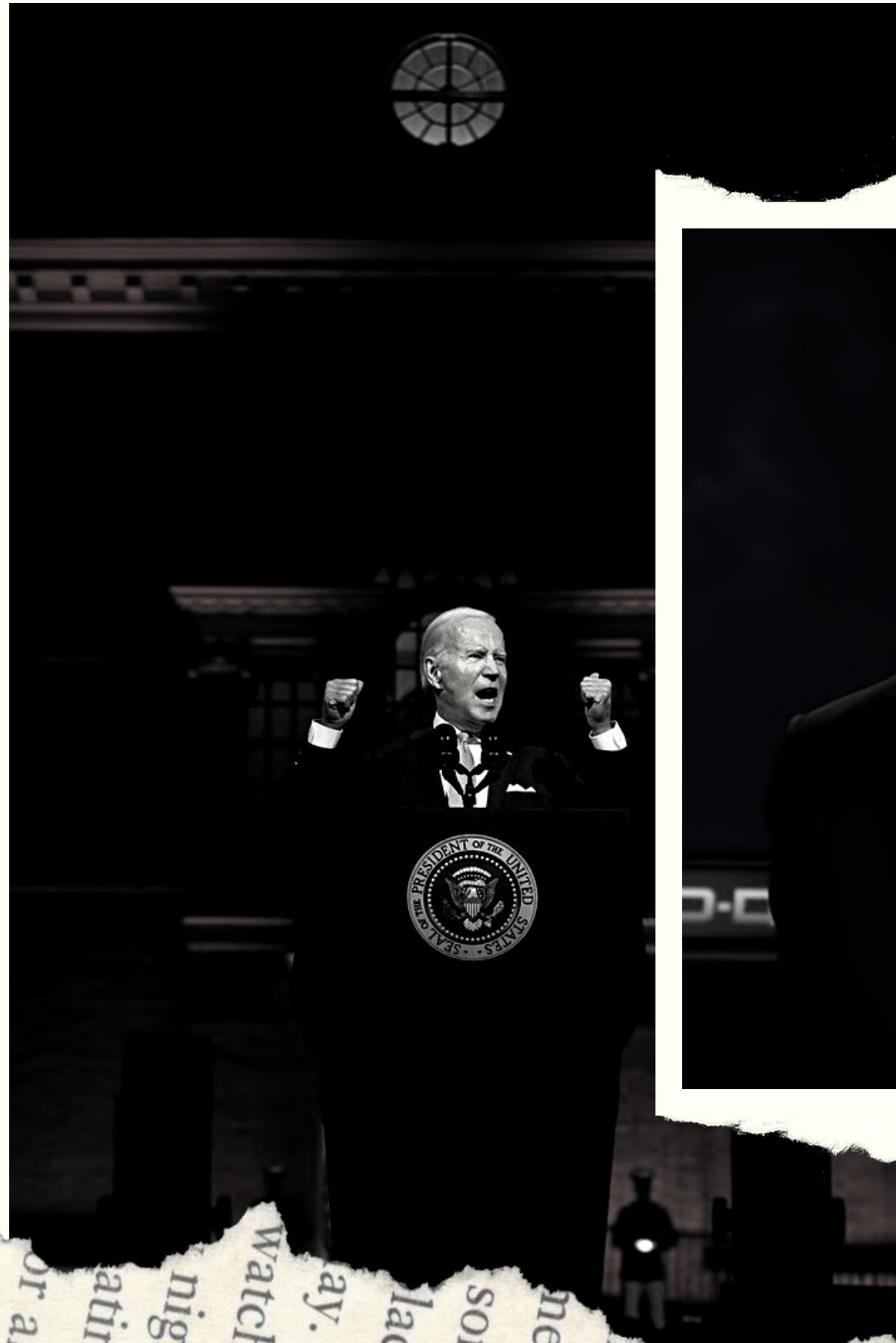
2 TIMOTHY 3:10-17



EVIL PEOPLE AND IMPOSTERS BRING PERSECUTION

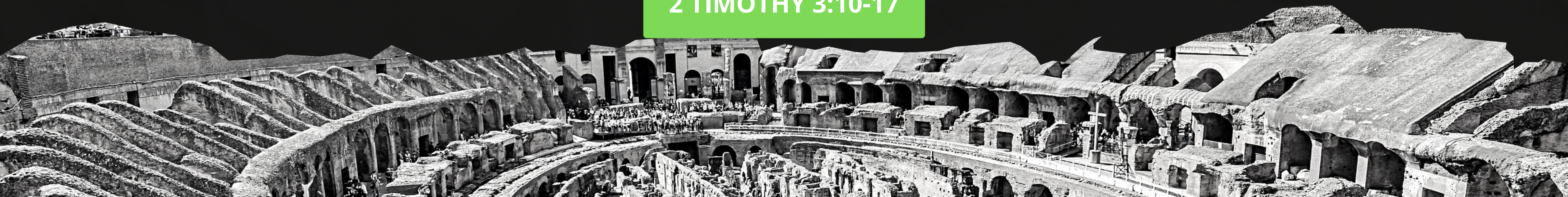
- **Target:** All who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus (v. 12)
- **Perpetrators:** Evil people--those outside the church who hate Christ, and imposters--those inside the church who hate Christ secretly. (v. 13)
- **Severity:** They go from bad to worse, indicating a steady progression of persecution and deceit (v. 12)
- **Method:** Deceiving and being deceived. Their father is the great deceiver, so their method is deception.

OBEY GOD, LIVE FRUITFULLY



10 You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, 11 my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. 12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 TIMOTHY 3:10-17



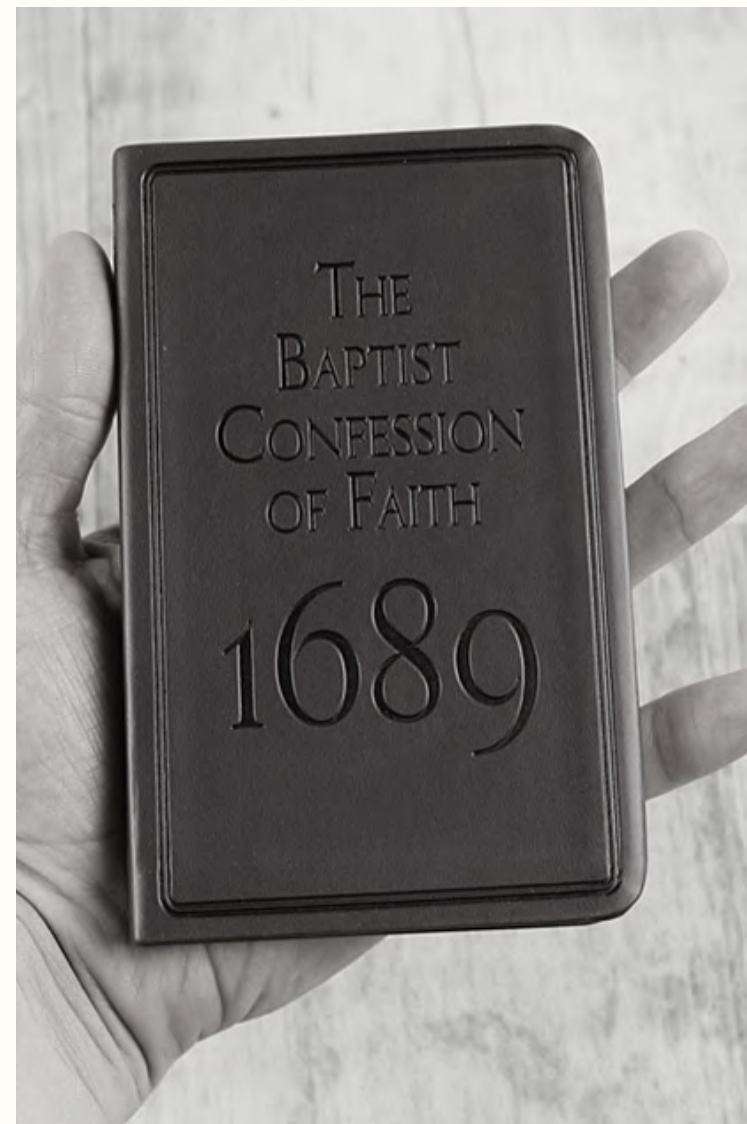
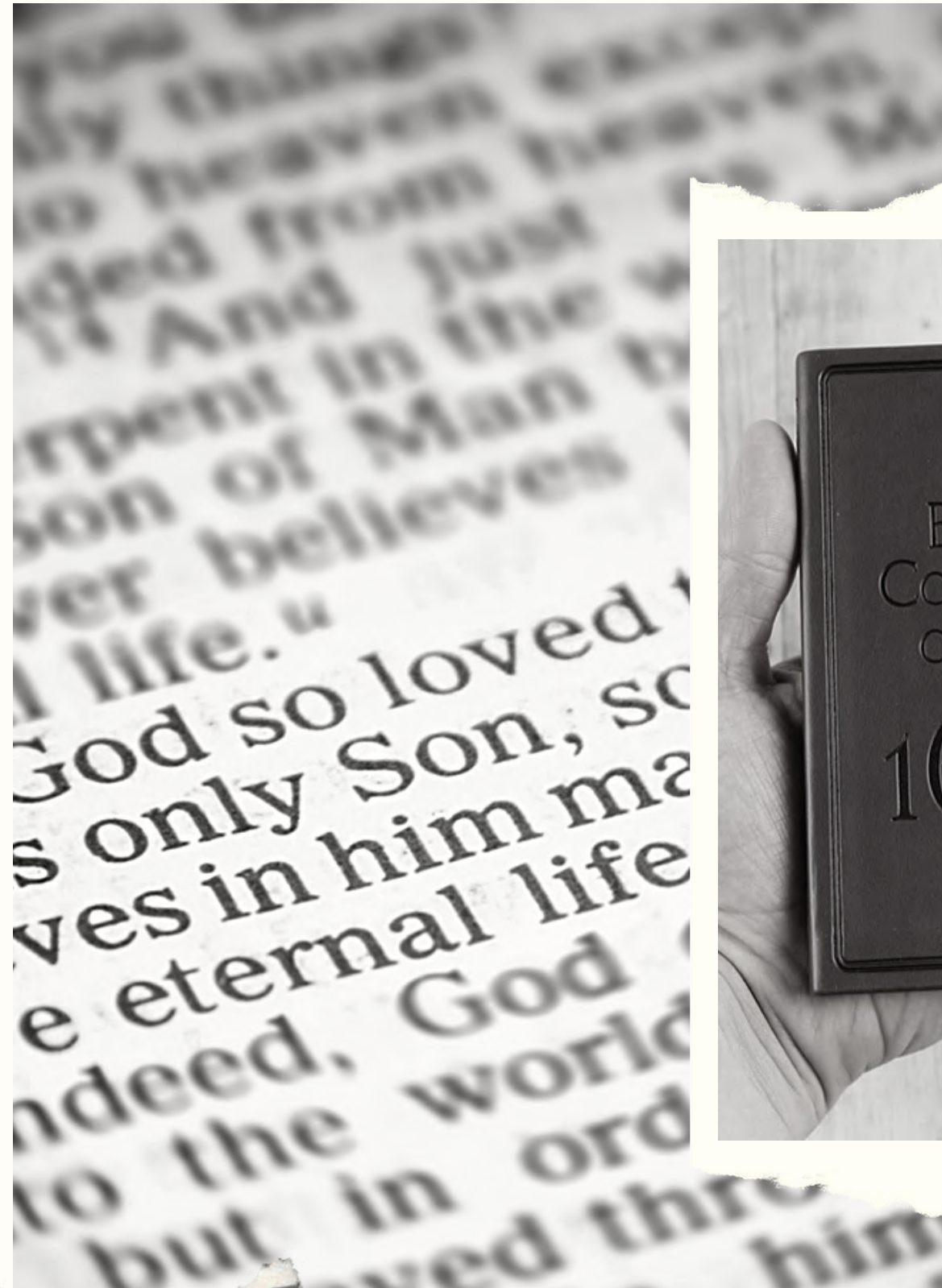
SCRIPTURE HELPS IN PERSECUTION

- **Doctrine:** Hold fast to the faithful doctrine your parents taught you. (v. 14)
- **Scripture:** God's Word is what makes us wise for salvation. (v. 15)

-Scripture is God-breathed: It is the ultimate authority and without error.

-Scripture is Sufficient: It provides everything needed for spiritual maturity.

In persecution, we are to hold fast to faithful doctrine and use Scripture to teach, reproof, correct, and train.



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. 21 But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. 22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. 23 Whoever hates me hates my Father also. 24 If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. 25 But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.' 26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. 27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.*

JOHN 15:18-27

PERSECUTION CONFIRMS YOU ARE CHRIST'S
THE WORLD HATES CHRIST, SO THEY HATE HIS FOLLOWERS.
IF YOU BELONGED TO HE WORLD, IT WOULD LOVE YOU.

REJOICE

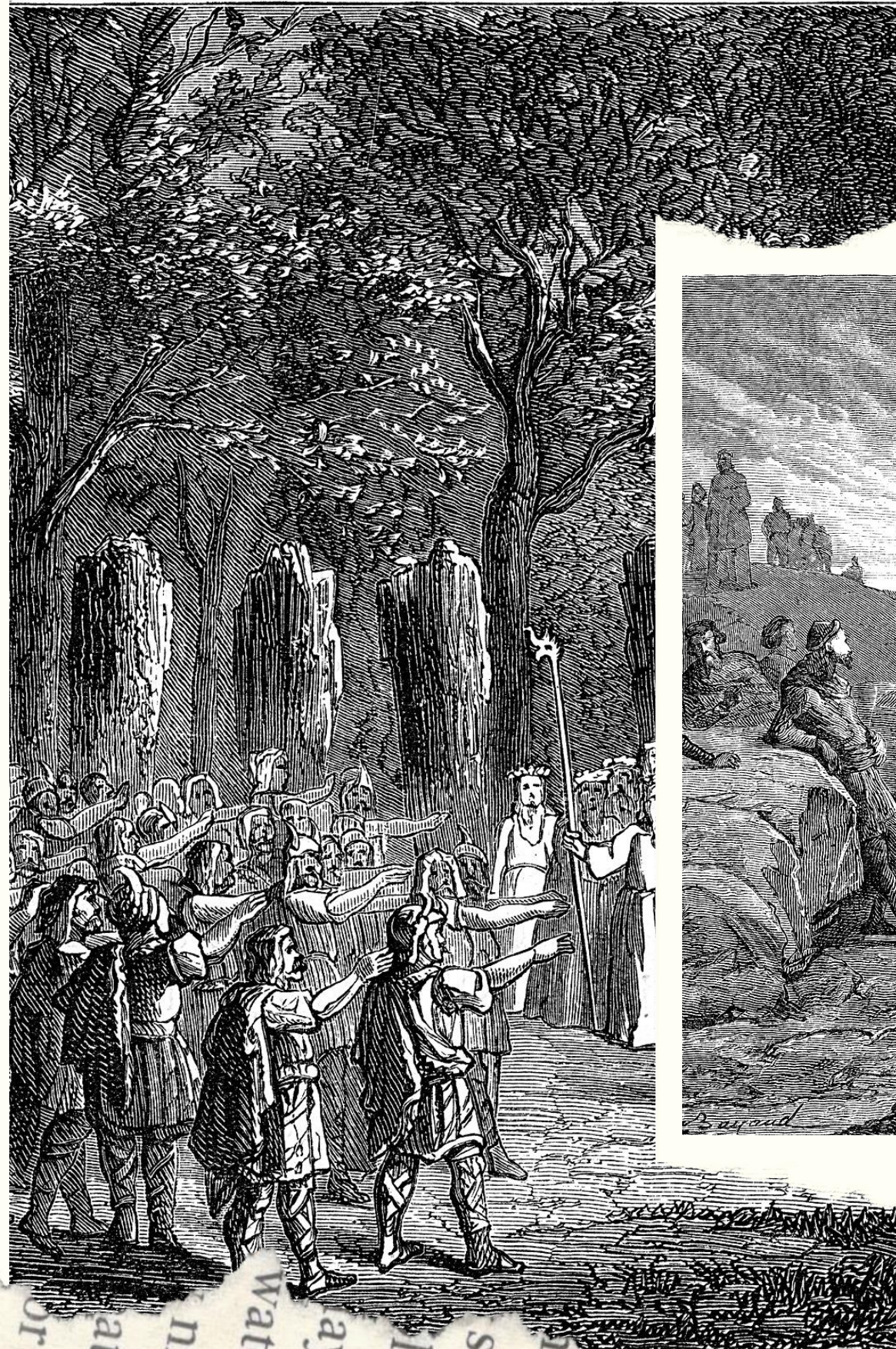


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JOHN 15:18-27

HELP IN PERSECUTION

HOLY SPIRIT



- **Assistance:** He is called the "Helper"
- **Confirmation:** He bears witness about Christ.
- **New Testament:** The apostles likewise bore witness in Scripture with His help.

PERSECUTED GAIN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

MATTHEW 5:10-12



PERSECUTED GAIN 100 FOLD AND MORE

Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life."

MARK 10:29-30



PERSECUTION MAKES US STRONG IN CHRIST

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9-10



WE CAN HAVE JOY **IN PERSECUTION**

*Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But **rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings**, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.*

1 PETER 4:12-14





TO OBEY IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE (1 SAM. 15:22)

1

Live a godly life in
Christ Jesus.
(2 Timothy 3:12)

2

Live peaceable in as
much as it is up to
you (Romans 12:18)

3

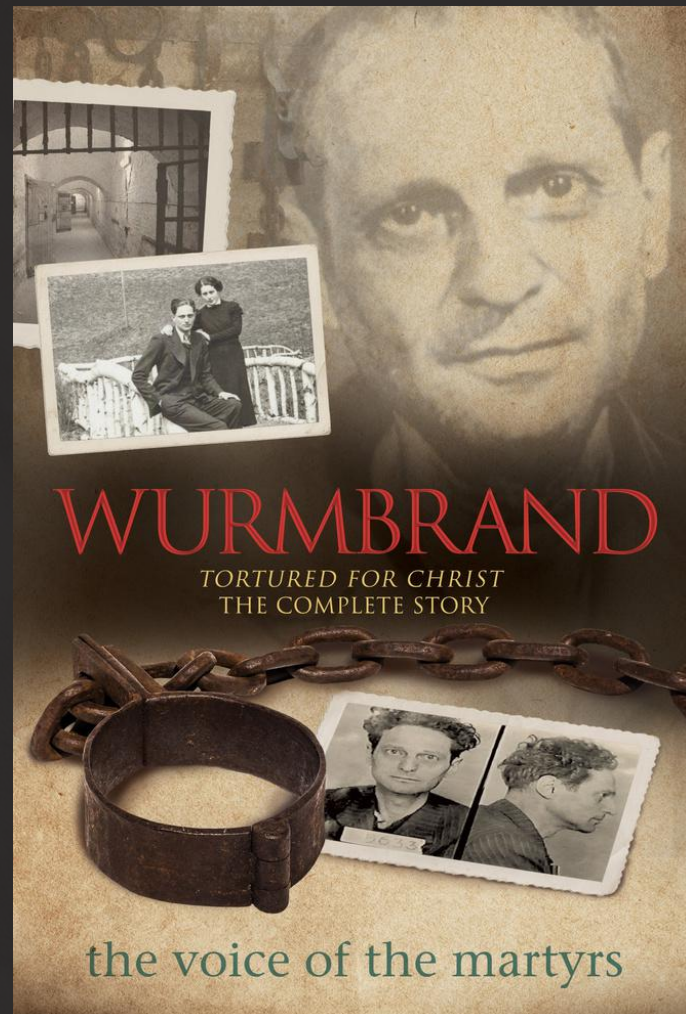
Be faithful to assemble
with the body of Christ.
(Hebrews 10:23-25)

4

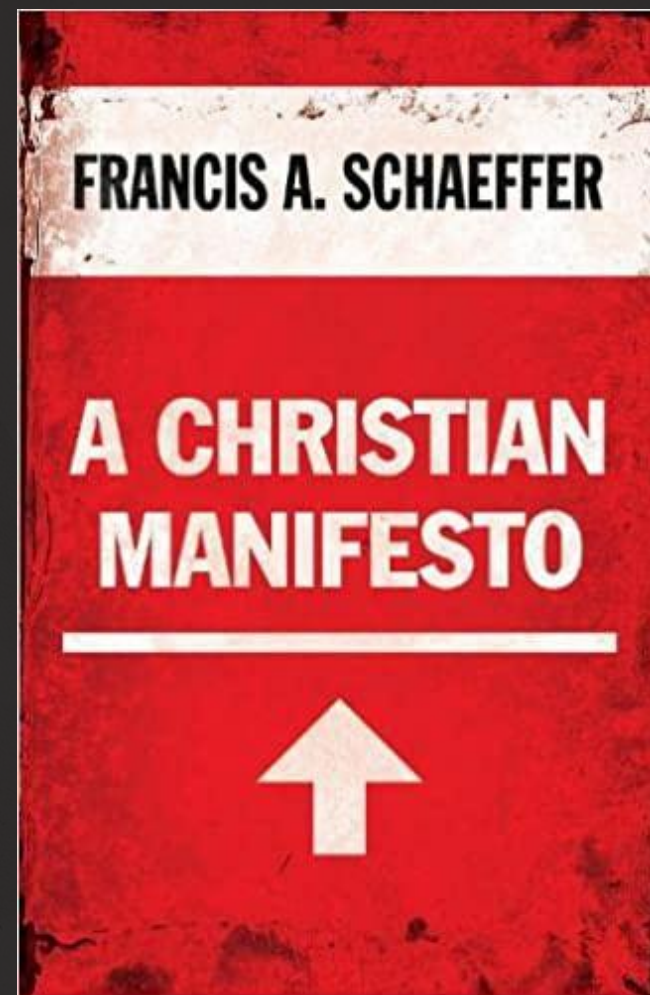
Work hard at your
vocation to the Glory of
God (Ephesians 4:28)

Be faithful in the everyday obedience to God's commands. The normal Christian life is how God is most glorified and His Kingdom is built.

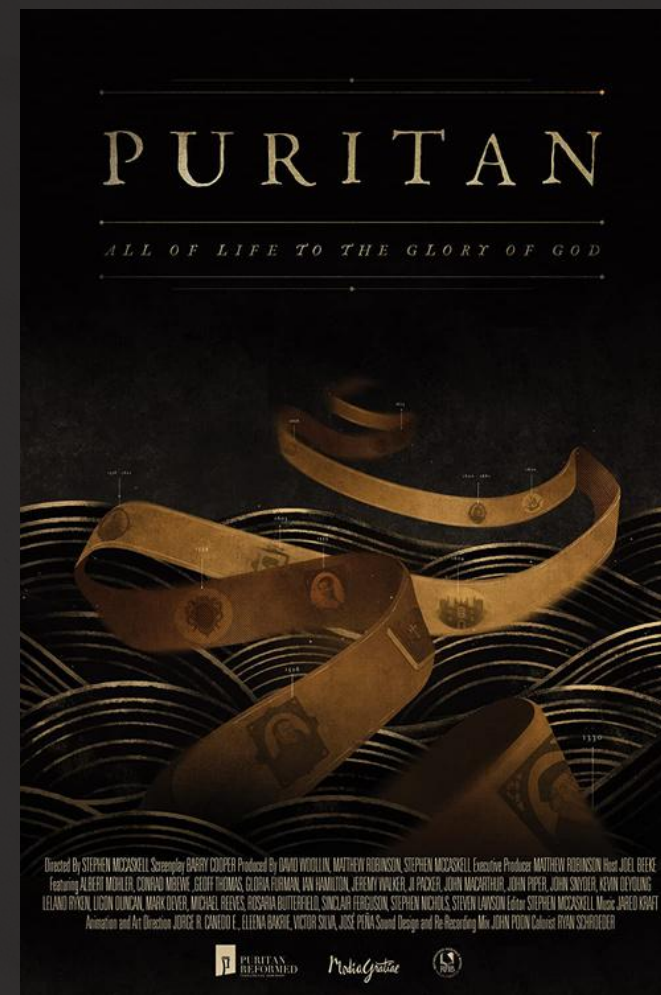
HELPFUL RESOURCES



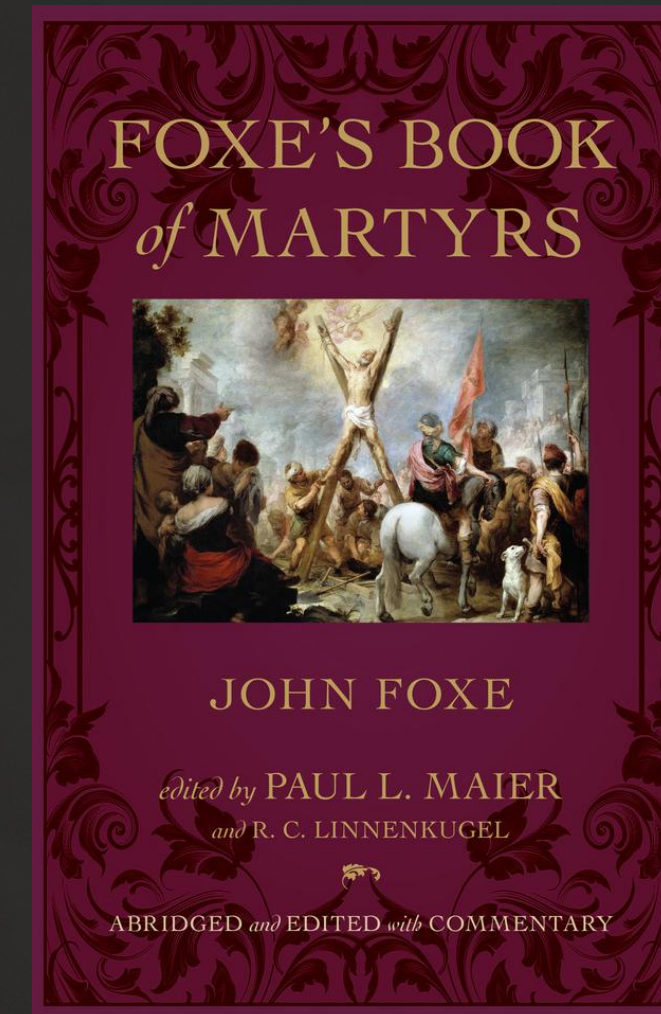
Tortured for Christ
Richard Wurmbrand



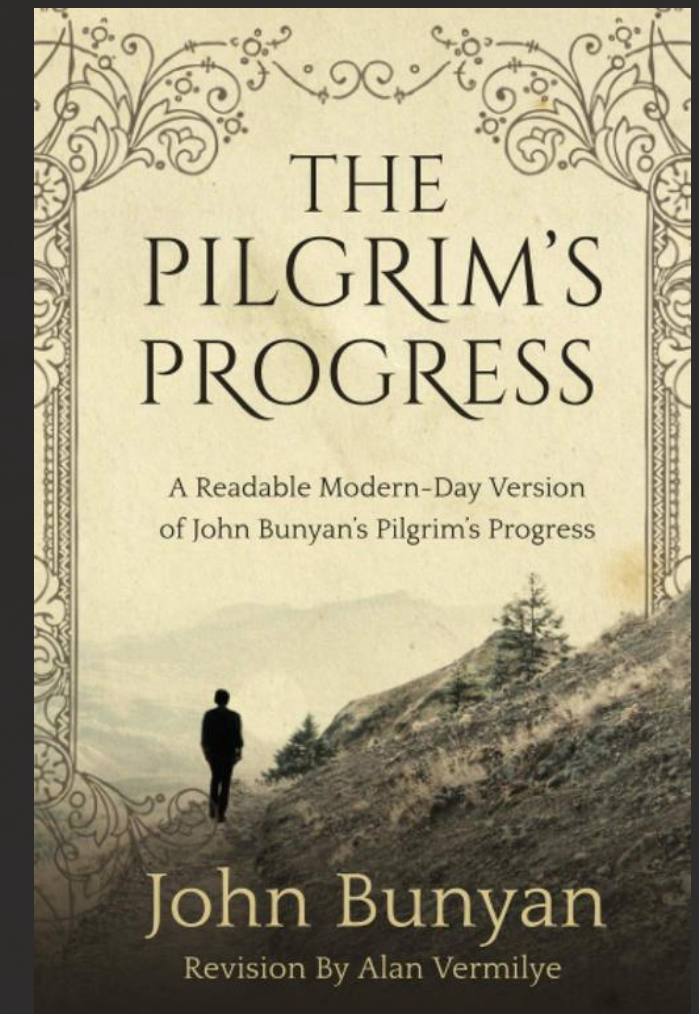
A Christian Manifesto
by Francis Schaeffer



Puritan
by Media Gratiae
(Documentary Film)



Foxe's Book of Martyrs
by John Foxe



The Pilgrim's Progress
by John Bunyan