Scripture References:

Psalm 11:1-4 In the Lord I take refuge; How can you say to my soul, “Flee as a bird to your mountain;” For, behold, the wicked bend the bow, They make ready their arrow upon the string to shoot in darkness at the upright in heart. If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?” The Lord is in His holy temple; the Lord’s throne is in heaven.

Mark 14:66-72 As Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came, and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Nazarene.” But he denied it, saying, “I neither know nor understand what you are talking about.” And he went out onto the porch. The servant-girl saw him, and began once more to say to the bystanders, “This is one of them!” But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders were again saying to Peter, “Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean too.” But he began to curse and swear, “I do not know this man you are talking about!” Immediately a rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had made the remark to him, “Before a rooster crow twice, you will deny Me three times.” And he began to weep.

Matthew 5:11-12 Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great.

I Peter 4:14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed.

I Timothy 2:1-2 I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

I Peter 3:15-17 Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame. For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

I. The Supreme Court Decisions regarding marriage

A. Proposition Eight was sent back to the state because of a judicial technicality by a vote of 5-4.

B. DOMA was ruled to be, in part, __________________________ by a vote of 5-4. The result is that the federal government will recognize the same-sex marriages of those in states where such is legal.

C. The majority opinion rationale for the DOMA ruling is that opposition to same-sex marriage is intended to d ______________________ and i __________________________ those in such relationships.

II. The Deeper Issues

A. The eradication of __________________________ as a bigger goal

B. The desire for a ______________________ and a ______________________

III. What can the righteous do?

A. S ______________________ ______________________

B. Pray for ______________________ and seek the ______________________

C. Walk as ______________________

D. Seek ______________________ from God

E. Trust in ______________________ ______________________

Sunday, July 21, 2013

“Righteous in the Ruins”