First Peter Series - A Living Hope

“Preparing For The Best”

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1 Peter 3:13-15  1.30.11

Introduction:
A. When it comes to the Christian life, not much that is __________.
B. Jesus never tried to hide the fact that __________ Him would not be __________. (Jn. 15:18-20; 16:33)
C. As we prepare for persecution, we should do so not as someone preparing for the ________, but for the ________.

I. Be ________ for What is ________.
   A. Being zealous for what is good produces a ________ life.

II. Be Willing to ________ for Doing ________.
   A. God allows us to suffer for righteousness so that we might receive the ________ that come out of such suffering (Mt. 5:11-12; 1 Pet. 1:6-7; James 1:2-4).

III. Be Not ________.
   A. When we fear the ________, then we have nothing else to ________. (Mt. 10:28)

IV. Be Clear about Who is ________.
   A. Have we truly set apart ________ as Lord of our ________?

V. Be Ready to ________ the ________.
   A. Persecution gives us an opportunity to ________.
   B. Our purpose is not to win ________, but to win ________.

VI. Be Like ________.
   A. Just like with Jesus, God’s ________ purposes can be realized in the midst of our own suffering.

Conclusion:
A. The story of J.H. Crowell - a young man who ________ the crew of a ship by being ________ in the face of persecution.
B. A quote from Eusebius one of the early church leaders: “He needs not fear confiscation, who has nothing to lose; nor banishment, to whom heaven is his country; nor torments, when his body can be destroyed at one blow; nor death, which is the only way to set him at liberty from sin and sorrow.”