

**“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.”

Answer Key: Intro. A. unexpected. B. following, easy. C. worst, best. I. Zealous, good. I.A. godly. II. Suffer, Right. II.A. blessings. III. Afraid. III.A. Lord, fear. IV. Lord. IV.A. Christ, hearts. V. Defend, Faith. V.A. witness. V.B. arguments, souls. IV. Jesus. IV.A. triumphant. Concl.A. converted, faithful.