I. FIRST, REMEMBER THE REWARD OF WITHSTANDING PERSECUTION.

A. Peter says there is a blessing or reward for being persecuted—3:13-14.

B. He will say this again—4:14.

C. Jesus likewise promises a reward—Matt. 5:10-12.

D. This refers to an eternal not temporal reward that awaits us.

II. SECOND, REVERE THE LORD TO WITHSTAND PERSECUTION.

A. Peter says to be prepared for persecution by being sure that Christ is on the throne of your life—3:15a.

   **1 Peter 3:15a**
   But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord....

B. Bill Bright was an American evangelist who died in 2003. In 1951 at the University of California, Los Angeles he founded Campus Crusade for Christ as a ministry for university students. In 1952 he wrote The Four Spiritual Laws a soul winner’s pamphlet. In 1979 he produced the film Jesus.

   1. In the witness booklet, The Four Spiritual Laws, he illustrates the throne inside each person....

   2. Peter’s point is the Christ must be on the throne of our life if we are to withstand persecution.

III. THIRD, KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE TO WITHSTAND PERSECUTION.

A. Do you know what you believe and would you be able to tell this to someone else?—3:15b.

   **1 Peter 3:15b**
   ...Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have......

B. We should share our faith in a non-argumentative way—3:15c.

   **1 Peter 3:15c**
   ....But do this with gentleness and respect.
IV. FOURTH, KEEP A CLEAR CONSCIENCE DURING PERSECUTION.

A. It’s better to suffer for doing good than for doing bad—3:16-17.

B. This is because a guilty conscience is harder to defend when being persecuted—1 John 3:21.

V. FIFTH, FOLLOW CHRIST’S EXAMPLE DURING PERSECUTION.

A. Jesus is our example of how to face persecution—3:18.

B. Peter has said this before—2:21.

C. Peter will say it again—4:1.

D. Notice what Christ’s suffering accomplished according to Peter in verse 18.

1. “Suffered once for sins”—unlike Temple sacrifices, Jesus’ sacrifice was sufficient to pay for our sins—I Cor. 15:3.

2. “The righteous for the unrighteous”—Christ vicariously died for us or in our place—Romans 6:23.

3. “To bring us to God”—Christ brought us into God’s presence as a perfect High Priest—Mat. 27:51.