

# Are You Ready For This?

*"And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness." 1John 5:19*

Everybody likes getting a gift because it is free. The greatest gift you could ever get is eternal salvation, and that gift was bought and paid for with the sinless, spotless blood of Jesus Christ shed on the cross for all of our sins (1Peter 1:18-19). However, there is a price to pay after you have received that gift and sometimes that price is very high.

Most preachers and teachers of today, both at the pulpits and on television, are preaching a watered down, candy coated, politically correct love gospel that is not preparing a person for true repentance and salvation and the hard road ahead that comes with it. They don't tell you that we are living in enemy territory and that satan is the god of this world, (2 Corinthians 4:3-4). They don't tell you that after you get truly saved, you will be mocked, excluded, hated, plotted against, suffer persecution and tribulation, and even be accused of being evil. That is why Jesus said in John 15:20a, "the servant is not greater than his Lord, if they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you", and also in vs. 18, "if the world hate you, you know that it hated me before it hated you".

Following God in this evil world has never been, or ever will be, a cakewalk or an easy road to follow, and the multitudes will try to choose another and easier way to get saved. But the road to eternal life is "straight and narrow and few there be that will find it" (Matthew 7:13-14). That is why Jesus said, "only those who endure to the end shall be saved" (Matthew 24:13). Many have started down the road of Christianity only to turn and go back into the world when persecution came. Even many of the Lord's own disciples went back and walked no more with him (John 6:66). (Funny how John 6:66 would be talking about false brothers who really are devils). Jesus himself said to "count the cost" (Luke 14:28-30) before starting down this road because it wasn't going to be an easy road to follow. That is why the Bible says "Many are called (Born again) but few are chosen" (by God) (Matthew 22:14). But today, many are cold, and most are frozen! That is also why the prevailing church of the last days just before the Rapture is Laodicean or unsaved, and Jesus is still "standing on the outside knocking on the door to their hearts" (Revelation 3:20).

Are you ready to be hated? Are you ready to be despised? Are you ready to suffer for the Lord? Are you ready to "pick up your cross daily, deny yourself, and come follow Jesus" (Luke 9:23)? If you are truly saved, you certainly will be because as was stated previously, "the servant is not greater than his master." That is why when Jesus was being led to his crucifixion, he turned to the women who were weeping for him and said, "Women, weep not for me but for yourselves" (Luke 23:28-31). Basically what the Lord was saying was that if they are doing this to me, what are they going to do to you?

Yes, there is a price to pay for following God in this evil and satanic world, and as this study shows, it has been and is being paid by every man and women of God since the beginning of time, from righteous Abel who was killed by his evil brother Cain (Matthew 23:35), all the way down to the last saint who dies during the Great Tribulation.

May this study strengthen and encourage you during your times of trials and tribulations and let you also know that you are not alone.

If you are a true child of God, this is what you can expect:

## 1. You will suffer for the Lord –

- 1) Romans 8:16, 17 - The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.
- 2) 2Corinthians 1:7 - And our hope of you *is* stedfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so *shall ye be* also of the consolation.
- 3) Philippians 1:29 - For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;
- 4) 1Timothy 4:10 - For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.
- 5) 2Timothy 2:12 - If we suffer, we shall also reign with *him*: if we deny *him*, he also will deny us:
- 6) 1Peter 2:21 - For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:
- 7) 1Peter 4:12, 13 - Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange

thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

## 2. You will be mocked and scorned –

- 1) Matthew 9:24 - He said unto them, Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him (Jesus) to scorn.
- 2) Acts 2:12, 13 - And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this? Others mocking said, These men (the apostles) are full of new wine.
- 3) Acts 17:32 - And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead (from Paul), some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this *matter*.
- 4) 2Peter 3:3-4 - And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of the creation.
- 5) Jude 1:18-19 - How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.
- 6) 2Chronicles 30:10 - So the posts (messengers) passed from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh even unto Zebulun: but they laughed them to scorn, and mocked them.
- 7) 2Chronicles 36:16 - But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till *there was* no remedy.
- 8) Job 12:4 - I (Job) am *as* one mocked of his neighbour, who calleth upon God, and he answereth him: the just upright *man is* laughed to scorn.
- 9) Psalm 22:7-8 - All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, *saying*, He trusted on the LORD *that* he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.
- 10) Jeremiah 17:15 - Behold, they say unto me (Jeremiah), Where *is* the word of the LORD? let it come now.
- 11) Jeremiah 20:7 - O LORD, thou hast deceived me (Jeremiah), and I was deceived: thou art stronger than I, and hast prevailed: I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me.

## 3. You will be excluded and deserted –

- 1) Luke 6:22a - Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company,
- 2) Galatians 4:17 - They zealously affect you, *but* not well; yea, they would exclude you, that ye might affect them.
- 3) Job 19:13 - He hath put my brethren far from me (Job), and mine acquaintance are verily estranged from me.
- 4) Psalm 31:11 - I was a reproach among all mine enemies, but especially among my neighbours, and a fear to mine acquaintance: they that did see me without fled from me (David).
- 5) Psalm 88:8 - Thou hast put away mine acquaintance far from me (David); thou hast made me an abomination unto them: *I am* shut up, and I cannot come forth.
- 6) Proverbs 19:7 - All the brethren of the poor do hate him: how much more do his friends go far from him? he pursueth *them with* words, *yet they are* wanting to him.

## 4. You will be plotted against –

- 1) Matthew 10:21 - And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against *their* parents, and cause them to be put to death.
- 2) Matthew 26:59-61 - Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death; But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, *yet* found they none. At the last came two false witnesses, And said, This *fellow* said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.
- 3) Acts 6:11-13 - Then they suborned men, which said, We have heard him (Stephen) speak blasphemous words against Moses, and *against* God. And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon *him*, and caught him, and brought *him* to the council, And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law:
- 4) Acts 23:12, 13 - And when it was day, certain of the Jews banded together, and bound themselves under a curse,

saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul. And they were more than forty which had made this conspiracy.

- 5) Genesis 37:18 - And when they saw him (Joseph) afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him.
- 6) 1Samuel 19:1 - And Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David.
- 7) 1Kings 21:13 - And there came in two men, children of Belial, and sat before him: and the men of Belial witnessed against him, *even* against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, Naboth did blaspheme God and the king. Then they carried him forth out of the city, and stoned him with stones, that he died.
- 8) 2 Chronicles 24:20, 21 - And the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, which stood above the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God, Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken the LORD, he hath also forsaken you. And they conspired against him, and stoned him with stones at the commandment of the king in the court of the house of the LORD.
- 9) Esther 3:6, 13 - And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had shewed him the people of Mordecai: wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that *were* throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, *even* the people of Mordecai. And the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, *even* upon the thirteenth *day* of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and *to take* the spoil of them for a prey.
- 10) Jeremiah 12:6 - For even thy brethren, and the house of thy father, even they have dealt treacherously with thee; yea, they have called a multitude after thee: believe them not, though they speak fair words unto thee.
- 11) Jeremiah 18:18 - Then said they, Come, and let us devise devices against Jeremiah; for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come, and let us smite him with the tongue, and let us not give heed to any of his words.
- 12) Micah 7:5, 6 - Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide: keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom. For the son dishonoureth the father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law; a man's enemies *are* the men of his own house.

## 5. You will be accused of being evil –

- 1) Matthew 10:25 - It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more *shall they call* them of his household?
- 2) Luke 7:33, 34 - For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and ye say, He hath a devil. The Son of man (Jesus) is come eating and drinking; and ye say, Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners!
- 3) John 7:12 - And there was much murmuring among the people concerning him: for some said, He (Jesus) is a good man: others said, Nay; but he deceiveth the people.
- 4) Acts 17:6 - And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These (Paul & Silas) that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;
- 5) Acts 28:4 - And when the barbarians saw the *venomous* beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man (Paul) is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live.
- 6) 2Corinthians 6:8 - By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers (Paul), and *yet* true;
- 7) Numbers 16:41 - But on the morrow all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron, saying, Ye have killed the people of the LORD.
- 8) Amos 7:10 - Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, Amos hath conspired against thee in the midst of the house of Israel: the land is not able to bear all his words.

## 6. You will have tribulation and persecution –

- 1) Matthew 13:20, 21 - But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

- 2) John 16:33 - These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.
- 3) Acts 13:50 - But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts.
- 4) Acts 14:22 - Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.
- 5) 2Corinthians 11:32, 33 - In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me: And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands.
- 6) 1Thessalonians 3:4 - For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.
- 7) 2 Thessalonians 1:4 - So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:
- 8) 2 Timothy 3:11, 12 - Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of *them* all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.
- 9) Revelation 1:9 - I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.
- 10) Revelation 2:9 - I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and *I know* the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but *are* the synagogue of Satan.

## 7. You will be hated –

- 1) Luke 21:17 - And ye shall be hated of all *men* for my name's sake.
- 2) John 15:18, 19 - If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before *it hated* you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.
- 3) 1John 3:13 - Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.
- 4) 2 Chronicles 18:7 - And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, *There is* yet one man, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he never prophesied good unto me, but always evil: the same *is* Micaiah the son of Imla. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so.
- 5) Psalm 41:7 - All that hate me (David) whisper together against me: against me do they devise my hurt.
- 6) Amos 5:10 - They hate him that rebuketh in the gate, and they abhor him that speaketh uprightly.

## 8. You may even suffer violence –

- 1) Matthew 14:10 - And he sent, and beheaded John (John the Baptist) in the prison.
- 2) Acts 5:40 - And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten *them*, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.
- 3) Acts 7:58, 59 - And cast *him* out of the city, and stoned *him*: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon *God*, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.
- 4) Acts 12:1, 2 - Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth *his* hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.
- 5) Acts 23:2 - And the high priest Ananias commanded them that stood by him to smite him on the mouth.
- 6) 2Chronicles 18:23 - Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah came near, and smote Micaiah upon the cheek, and said, Which way went the Spirit of the LORD from me to speak unto thee?
- 7) Jeremiah 20:2 - Then Pashur smote Jeremiah the prophet, and put him in the stocks that *were* in the high gate of Benjamin, which *was* by the house of the LORD.

- 8) Jeremiah 37:15 - Wherefore the princes were wroth with Jeremiah, and smote him, and put him in prison in the house of Jonathan the scribe: for they had made that the prison.
- 9) Revelation 6:9, 10, 11 - And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they *were*, should be fulfilled.
- 10) Revelation 20:4 - And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Now you know why Jesus said to count the cost before you start down this road because an easy road it was never going to be. Men and women from the beginning have suffered greatly for the Lord and many have been put to death for their faith in God.

Job wished he had never been born (Job 3:3-4, 11) and Jeremiah even cursed the day he was born (Jeremiah 15:10, 20:14 – 18). However, we, as last days Christians, have something wonderful and special to look forward to. There is a onetime only escape clause for this last generation which started with the rebirth of Israel in 1948. The Bible says when the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his Glory (Psalm 102:16). This event is called the Blessed Hope (Titus 2:13). It has also been commonly called “the Rapture” where the Lord will descend from heaven, hover above the earth, and call all of his people home to be with him, the dead first, then we which are alive at that time. We are told to comfort one another with these words (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18). And why should we comfort one another? Because the Great Tribulation (Matthew 24:21) is coming and the church was promised to be kept from the hour of temptation which should come upon all the world to try them that dwell upon the earth (Revelation 3:10). It is the time of God’s undiluted wrath (Zephaniah 3:8) upon a Christ rejecting world and if the Lord didn’t shorten those days, no flesh should be left alive (Matthew 24:22). So that is why the Bible says “our sufferings at this present time are not worthy to be compared to the glory we shall have” (Romans 8:18).

So get ready! Prepare to meet thy God (Amos 4:12)! Jesus is coming back soon for a church without spot or blemish (Ephesians 5:27). So correct your faults, cleanse your hands, repent with all your heart and ask forgiveness for all your sins. The Rapture could come at any moment so be ready, “for in a time you think not, the Son of Man will come” (Matthew 24:44). “Even so, come, Lord Jesus” (Revelation 22:20).

AMEN!