

Wretched Worldview

**Persecution:
Always Be Prepared**

Study Guide Answer Key

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These answers are not meant to be comprehensive, but to serve as a general guideline. We encourage the student to give more detailed responses. Answers for each chapter can be found in the DVD. Some of the Going Deeper questions may require the use of additional resources.

All Scripture references are from the NASB.

CHAPTER ONE: Peter's Shocking Instruction

1. Briefly describe the first widespread persecution of Christians in the first century as recorded by Fox's Book of Martyrs. Where did it occur? Who was ruling at the time? What was the result for Christianity?

The first wave of persecution occurred in Rome under Nero in AD 67. Among his cruelties, he had Christians sewn up in wild beast skins and eaten by dogs; he also put them in wax shirts and set on fire to illumine his gardens. The result was that Christianity flourished under such persecution.

2. Briefly describe the second widespread persecution of Christians in the first century. Include the same details as above.

The second wave occurred under Domitian in AD 81. He ordered that all the Jews be put to death, and blamed the Christians for natural disasters. Christians were also forced to take a test oath in court, which whether they refused to take the oath or proclaimed themselves Christians, the sentence of death was the same. Timothy was killed during this time for speaking out against a pagan celebration.

3. Why is it important to know how Christians were being treated when Peter wrote his first epistle?

Because it helps us understand the context for Peter's letter. He is writing to Christians under intense persecution.

4. What are some of the main points Peter writes to persecuted Christians in the first chapter of his letter?

- 1) You've been saved to obey.
- 2) You have an inheritance waiting for you.
- 3) You will endure through the persecution because God has reserved a place for you in heaven. (Therefore, stop looking at your circumstances and remember what God has planned for you.)
- 4) Live holy lives so you will be a testimony to unbelievers of God's salvation.

GOING DEEPER:

1. Write a brief description of what you learn about Peter from these gospel accounts:

Mark 1:16-18, 29-31, 3:16

John 1:40-42, 20:1-7; 21:15-17

Matthew 17:1-13, 26:30-35, 69-75.

He was originally known as Simon (or Simeon), the son of Jonah (or John); and had a brother named Andrew, who was also a disciple. Jesus changed his name to Peter (or Cephas), which means rock or stone. He was a fisherman by trade. Peter was married and Jesus healed his mother-in-law when she was sick with fever.

Peter was present at the Transfiguration of Jesus, along with James and John. He vehemently denied Jesus' assertions that he and the other disciples would fall away from Him, and that Peter specifically would deny Him three times on the night of His

arrest. Yet, that is exactly what happened. After the resurrection, it was Peter (and the disciple whom Jesus loved, John) to whom Mary Magdalene told that Jesus' body was not in the tomb. He and John then went to the tomb, entered it and saw for themselves the linen wrappings lying there. In a conversation with the resurrected Lord, Peter is commanded to tend Christ's sheep as an expression of His love for Jesus.

2. How does Peter describe the Christians to whom he is writing?
In verse 1, he describes them as aliens and chosen (NASB).
 - a. Look up the definition of an alien. What does it mean in this context?
Possible answers include a foreigner, stranger, someone owing allegiance to another country.
 - b. Look up these verses and summarize why Peter referred to his readers as aliens:
John 15:18-19, 18:36
Ephesians 2:19
Philippians 3:20
Hebrews 11:13-16
1 Peter 2:11
Answer should be similar to: In the Gospel of John, Jesus makes it clear that His kingdom is not of this world, nor are His followers of this world. Like the saints in the Old Testament who were strangers and exiles on the earth, Christians are also strangers, being part of God's household and having their citizenship in heaven.
 - c. Read Ephesians 1:3-8a and list everything God has done for Believers.
 - 1) Blessed them with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ – verse 3.
 - 2) Chose them in Christ before the foundation of the world – verse 4.
 - 3) Predestined them to adoption as His sons through Jesus Christ. – verse 5.
 - 4) Freely bestowed His grace on us in the Beloved (Jesus) – verse 6.
 - 5) Provided redemption through Jesus' blood – verse 7.
 - 6) Provided forgiveness of our trespasses – verse 7.
 - d. According to Ephesians 1:4-6, why did God do all this?
He did all this in love (verse 4), according to the kind intention of His will (verse 5) and to the praise of the glory of His grace (verse 6).
3. How is the Trinity involved in our salvation according to verse 2?
We are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of God the Holy Spirit, so that we would obey God the Son, Jesus Christ, and be sprinkled by His blood.
 - a. How is 2 Thess. 2:13-14 similar to 1 Peter 1:2?
2 Thess. 2:13-14 also describes the role of the Trinity in salvation. God chose us for salvation from the beginning, through sanctification by the Spirit in order to gain the glory of Jesus Christ.
4. What does Peter desire for the recipients to have in fullest measure?

Grace and peace, verse 2.

5. Considering that the recipients of Peter's letter were undergoing persecution, how do you think the opening verses of the letter would have brought them comfort?

Answer should be similar to: By reminding them of God's eternal purpose for them in salvation and what they have to look forward to beyond this life, Peter was giving them the proper perspective for dealing with their difficult circumstances. This had to give them great encouragement that God had not abandoned them, and the hope that God would use their suffering for their good and His glory.

CHAPTER TWO: The Best is Yet to Come

1. According to Dr. MacArthur, what has the Lord promised to those who know Him and love Him in this life?
The list includes trouble, persecution, rejection, difficulty, trials, temptation, pain, suffering, sorrow, sickness, and physical death.
2. What are some of the lies our culture tells us? Why are these not true?
That you can be whatever you want to be; that you can achieve whatever you want to achieve; that you can create your own world by speaking it into existence. These are not true because life is full of trouble and misery, most of which we can't control. Therefore we will never be completely happy or satisfied in this life.
3. As Christians, what is the remedy for dealing with lost hope in this life, whether it comes in the form of disappointment, trouble or persecution?
Keep our thoughts on the inheritance that awaits us in heaven.
4. How does Peter describe this inheritance in I Peter 1:4?
It is imperishable, undefiled, will not fade away and is reserved in heaven.

GOING DEEPER:

1. Let's learn a bit more about this inheritance that Peter says is imperishable, undefiled, will not fade away and is reserved in heaven for us. Look up the following verses and summarize what each has to say about this inheritance.

Psalm 16:5 -	The Lord Himself is the portion of the inheritance.
Matthew 25:34 -	It includes the kingdom, which was prepared from the foundation of the world.
Acts 20:32 -	It is given by God's grace to those who are sanctified.
Acts 26:18 (read verses 16-17 for context) -	It is for Jews and Gentiles, anyone who has been sanctified by faith in Jesus Christ.
Ephesians 1:18 -	The inheritance is rich in glory.
Ephesians 5:5 -	The inheritance is not for the immoral, impure, covetous or idolaters.
Colossians 3:23-24 -	It is a reward for those who serve the Lord Jesus.
Hebrews 9:15 -	It is part of the new covenant and it is eternal.
2. How can we be sure that we'll receive this inheritance? What does Ephesians 1:13-14 tell us?
We are sealed with the Holy Spirit who is the pledge, or guarantee, of our inheritance.
 - a. Explain in your own words what a pledge or guarantee is. Then explain how the Holy Spirit acts as a pledge or guarantee for Believers.
Answer should be similar to: A pledge or guarantee is something that is given to ensure that a promise is kept. In this case, the promise is of a glorious inheritance, which awaits Believers in heaven. God has given His Holy Spirit to

Believers so they can trust in His promise that there is something wonderful being prepared for them in eternity!

3. The word *perishable* is used several times throughout I Peter 1. (Other translations may use the word *corruptible*.) *Imperishable* is used in verse 4 and is implied in several other verses. Look up these words in a dictionary and write their definitions below.

Perishable – Liable to spoil or decay

**Imperishable – Not perishable or subject to decay; enduring or occurring forever
(These definitions are from Merriam-Webster.com.)**

- a. Read through I Peter 1 to find the references to *perishable*. List below what is being described as perishable and, by contrast, what is imperishable and how that relates to our salvation.

Perishable	Imperishable
Verse 7 - Gold	Our faith, even though tested by fire
Verse 18 - Silver or gold (as describing the futile way of life inherited from forefathers)	Verse 19: The precious blood of Christ, which redeems us
Verse 23 - Seed	The living and abiding word of God, through which we have been born again.

4. How would the verses above, having to do with what is perishable and imperishable, be an encouragement for the persecuted Christians?

Answer should be similar to: It would be great encouragement to know that their faith, like their salvation, is unshakable and solid. It will survive and sustain them through their persecution.

CHAPTER THREE: The Promise of Persecution

1. Todd quotes a promise from the Bible regarding those who live godly in Christ Jesus. Find the verse and write it below.
2 Timothy 3:12, "And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."
2. What was the context for the book of I Peter? And how did Christians suffer persecution in the first 300 years following Christ's death?
Peter was writing to Christians who were suffering persecution under the Roman Emperor, Nero. It began around AD 67 and included being sewn in the skins of animals and fed to wild dogs, as well as being covered in wax and lit on fire as human torches for parties.

The second wave of persecution came under the next Emperor Domitian. He used the rack to tear the bodies of Christians apart. They were also seared, burned, boiled, scourged, stoned, hanged, lacerated with hot irons, and impaled on the horns of bulls.

The fourth wave in AD 162 included beheadings, and in the eighth wave, 300 Christians were thrown into a lime kiln to be incinerated.
3. Why will there always be persecution of Christians?
There will always be persecution because Satan hates God and hates Christians.
4. Describe the different ways Christians experience persecution.
It can be overt and involve physical suffering and/or death.
It can be subtle and involve social rejection, alienation, denial of a job or other position in society.
5. Why did Dr. MacArthur say it would be good for the church in America if Christians were being killed for their faith?
He stated it would have a cleansing effect on the church. Those who profess to know Christ but don't possess saving faith will leave, and the church will be left with the true Believers.

GOING DEEPER:

1. Read through I Peter 1 again. How would you describe the Christians to whom Peter is writing? How are they responding to their suffering and persecution? How are they relating to God through it? Cite the verses to support your answer.
Possible answers include: They are distressed by their trials (verse 6), but are rejoicing in their salvation and their protection by the power of God (verse 5). They so love the Lord and believe in Him, that they are rejoicing with joy inexpressible and are full of glory (verse 8).

2. An imperative in Scripture is a command to do something. Find all the verses in chapter 1 that contain an imperative and write each one down. In other words, what does Peter tell these persecuted Christians to do?

Verse 13: 1) Gird their minds for action

2) Keep sober in spirit

3) Fix their hope completely on the grace that will be theirs when Christ returns

Verse 14: 4) Do not be conformed to their former lusts, but...

Verse 15: 5) Be holy (like the Holy One who called them)

Verse 17: 6) Conduct themselves with fear (of the One who impartially judges) during their stay on earth

Verse 22: 7) Fervently love one another from the heart

3. How will these commands or imperatives help the Christians endure their persecution? (Think about these verses in context of the entire chapter.)

Answer can be similar to: By touching on every aspect of a Christian's being – their mind, body and spirit – Peter is giving them a multi-faceted strategy for dealing with their suffering. In the context of the rest of the chapter, he's reminding them of what really matters and what is eternal. Their suffering is not eternal, but their faith is. So they should be focusing themselves on those things that make their faith stronger, for a stronger faith will help them endure their persecution.

4. Look through that list of imperatives again. They apply to all Christians whether going through persecution or not. Be honest with yourself as you assess how you are doing in regards to each of these commands. Which ones are more difficult for you to obey? Why? Write out your thoughts and then take some time to pray and talk to the Lord about it.

CHAPTER FOUR: Be Holy!

1. What are the three things from I Peter 1 that Peter wants the persecuted Christians to remember?
 - 1. They have been redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ.**
 - 2. God is preparing a place for them in eternity.**
 - 3. They are to live holy lives, in the midst of their persecution, as a testimony to others of God's saving grace.**
2. According to Todd, why are we (Christians) here? In other words, what is our job description? Does it change when we are being persecuted?

God has us here to win people to Himself so He can be glorified for the redemptive work that was accomplished by Jesus Christ on the cross.

No, it doesn't change even when we're persecuted. If anything, it's even more powerful when we're suffering.
3. In light of the plight of the Christians Peter was writing to, why does he begin chapter 2 the way he does (verse 1)?

He wants them to be holy in the midst of their persecution so people will want to know about their God and possibly get saved.
4. How do Christians grow in holiness? Cite the verse from chapter 2 that gives the answer.

By getting into the Word (verse 2).
5. What helps Christians keep a godly perspective of their persecutors?

Remembering that they aren't rejecting us (Christians), but are rejecting Jesus Christ, the precious cornerstone, whom we represent. When we remember this, then we can look at them as victims in the grip of Satan who desperately need to hear about Jesus!
6. What does Peter call Christians in verse 9 of chapter 2?

A chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession.
7. For what purpose does God make Christians a people for His own possession, according to verse 9?

To proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

GOING DEEPER:

1. I Peter chapter 2 begins with the word *therefore*. Whenever you see that word, you should stop and ask yourself, what is it there for? So, in the context of I Peter 2, what is the word *therefore* there for?

Answer should be similar to: Peter is telling his readers that what he is going to say next (which will be a series of imperatives or commands), is the result of what he's already told them. In 1:23, he wrote about them being born again with the imperishable seed of the Word of God. Now he is going to tell them how they should live in light of that reality.

2. In the first part of chapter 2, Peter describes Christians as newborn babes and living stones. What is Peter's purpose for making these comparisons?
Just like babies long for their mother's milk, so should Christians long for the pure milk of the word so that they may grow in respect to salvation (verse 2). Just as a building can be made with stones, Christians are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood to God (verse 5).
3. In verse 4, Peter compares Jesus to a living stone. List everything you learn about this "living stone" in verses 4-8.
**Verse 4: Rejected by men
Choice and precious in the sight of God
Verse 6: A choice and precious cornerstone
Verse 7: Rejected by the builders
The chief cornerstone
Verse 8: A stone of stumbling
A rock of offense**
 - a. How might this description of Jesus bring comfort to the suffering Christians?
It reminds them that Jesus was also rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God.
4. There are only two responses people can make about Jesus. According to verses 7-8, what are they and what are the results of both responses?
**Those who believe in Him consider Him of precious value and they will not be disappointed (in that they will receive eternal salvation) - verse 6.
Those who disbelieve will stumble over Him and be offended by Him because of disobedience to the word, and there is a doom to which they are appointed (eternal judgment) – verse 8.**
5. In a contrast to the unbelievers that Peter mentions in verse 8, he goes on to describe believers in verses 9-10. Using the chart below, list everything that Peter says believers are or have received.

Believers Are...	Believers Have...
A chosen race A royal priesthood A holy nation A people for God's own possession The people of God	Been called out of darkness and into His marvelous light Received mercy

- a. Why are Believers a people for God's own possession?
So that they may proclaim the excellencies, or praises, of God who has done all of this for them! (Verse 9)

- b. Look back over the list above. How do you think the persecuted Christians in Peter's day would have responded to this description of themselves?
Answer should be similar to: No doubt this would have given them great encouragement and a great strengthener of their faith. It would have helped them lift their eyes above their temporary hostile circumstances to remember their eternal identity in Christ.

- c. What about you? If you're a believer in Jesus Christ, how can the above list encourage you in your faith?
Answer should be well thought out and supported with Scripture where appropriate.

If you're not a believer in Jesus Christ, that is, if you've never repented of your sins and trusted in Christ's death and resurrection for your eternal salvation, are you concerned that the Bible says there is a doom that awaits you – an eternal judgment? If you want to better understand whom Jesus Christ is and what you must do to be saved, please go to wretched.tv for helpful and free information.

CHAPTER FIVE: Patiently Endure

1. Why might God allow persecution against Christians to come to America and how does this tie with 1 Peter 2:12?
So that people can see Christians living holy lives in the midst of their persecution and get saved. That is why Peter admonishes the Christians in verse 12 to keep their behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so they (the Gentiles) may glorify God because of observing the good deeds of the Christians.
2. According to 1 Peter 2, why should we as Christians submit to an unjust or unreasonable employer who dislikes us because of our faith? Which verse or verses from chapter 2 support your answer?
So that the employer, and everyone else observing the unjust treatment, will be drawn to Christ as they witness our patient endurance through the suffering. Verses 18-20 encourage us to patiently endure unjust suffering in the context of servants submitting to unreasonable masters.
3. What are the three things to remember when suffering persecution, according to Dr. MacArthur?
 - 1) **Be submissive to authority - persecution is a providence in the will of God.**
 - 2) **Be filled with the Holy Spirit - yield completely to His power and wisdom.**
 - 3) **Boldly proclaim the gospel!**
4. Dr. MacArthur quoted Jesus telling us not to be anxious about what to say when we're arrested because the Holy Spirit will give us the words to speak. This admonition is found in three of the Gospels (two are direct references, the third is similar but slightly different). Find these references and write them below. How is one of them different from the other two?
Matthew 10:19-20, "But when they deliver you up, do not become anxious about how or what you will speak; for it shall be give you in that hour what you are to speak. For it is not you who speak, but it is the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you."

Mark 13:11, "And when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not be anxious beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but it is the Holy Spirit."

Luke 21:12-15, "But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, delivering you to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for My name's sake. It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony. So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves; for I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute."

In the Matthew and Mark passages, Jesus says the Holy Spirit will give them the words to say, but in the Luke passage Jesus says that He Himself will give them the words and wisdom.
5. How will the Holy Spirit help us to endure persecution?
He will help us know what to say and how to react; He also will give us the strength to endure.

6. Why does Dr. MacArthur say that death is the ultimate triumph for Christians? Give Scripture to support your answer.

Answer can vary, but should be similar to:

Because physical death is not the end! In fact, it's the beginning of eternal life in presence of the Lord. "To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:8). Also, Paul reminds us that "to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21).

7. How should Christians view Muslims who are persecuting them?

As our mission field, not our enemies.

8. How can we as Christians remember to love our enemies?

By remembering that we were once enemies of God, and God in His great love and mercy saved us by punishing His Son in our place. If God could so love us, then we ought to also love our enemies.

GOING DEEPER:

1. Peter uses the phrase *for this finds favor* twice in chapter 2. Find the two verses that use this phrase and write down what Peter is referring to.

In verses 19 and 20, Peter is referring to God finding favor with a person when he or she patiently endures unjust suffering.

2. The end of chapter 2 presents Jesus as the example for Christians to follow in how they should endure unjust suffering. List everything you learn about why Christ's suffering was unjust and how He responded to it.

Christ's suffering was unjust because He was innocent as described in verse 22.

His response: He did not revile in return - verse 23.

He uttered no threats - verse 23.

He kept entrusting Himself to Him (God the Father) who judges righteously - verse 23.

3. In writing about Christ's suffering, Peter quotes from Isaiah 53 several times in the last five verses of chapter two. Read through Isaiah 53 slowly and thoughtfully. Remember this is what Jesus suffered on *your* behalf.

When you're done, list below everything the text says about what Christ suffered, why He suffered, and what His suffering accomplished.

What Christ Suffered:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Verse 3 - | He was despised and forsaken |
| | A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief |
| Verse 5 - | Pierced through |
| | Crushed |
| | Chastened |
| | Scourged |
| Verse 6 - | The iniquity of us all laid on Him |

Verse 7 - Oppressed and afflicted
Verse 8 - Judgment
Cut off from the land of the living
Verse 10 - Crushed
Put to grief
Made a guilt offering
Verse 11 - Anguish of soul
Verse 12 - Poured out to death
Numbered with transgressors
Bore the sin of many

Why Christ Suffered:

Verse 4 - To bear our griefs
To carry our sorrows
Verse 5 - For our transgressions
For our iniquities
For our well-being
For our healing
Verse 8 - For the transgressions of God's people
Verse 11 - To bear people's iniquities

What Christ's Suffering Accomplished (verses 11 & 12)

Verse 11 - Satisfaction for God (satisfying His wrath)
Justification for many
Verse 12 - Intercession for transgressors

4. What is the comparison Isaiah uses to help us understand Christ's response to His suffering?
He said Jesus was like a lamb led to the slaughter and like a sheep is silent before its shearers, so Jesus did not open His mouth - verse 7.
5. According to I Peter 2:24, what was the purpose for Christ's suffering on the cross?
That we might die to sin and live to righteousness.
6. How would the description of Jesus in 1 Peter 2:25 bring comfort to suffering Christians?
To know that Jesus is the Shepherd and Guardian of their souls would be a great comfort to them in their suffering. While they may suffer physical harm and even death in their bodies, Jesus will nurture and protect their souls so that one day they will be raised to eternal life with Him!

CHAPTER SIX: The Fruits of Persecution

1. What does the doctrine of sovereignty have to do with persecution of Christians?
Persecution does not happen outside of God's plan. Because He is sovereign, He either causes or permits persecution for His good purposes.
2. According to James 1:2-4, what is the benefit of trials in our lives?
To produce a tested faith that yields endurance and causes a Believer to be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.
3. What is the benefit of trials in James 1:12?
An eternal reward.
4. According to Dr. MacArthur, persecution is a noble expectation. What does he mean by this?
According to the Bible, persecution produces growth, glory, maturity, assurance, blessing, encouragement, and reward. It is part of who we are, and one of the privileges of our union with Christ.
5. How is persecution helpful to the Church?
It brings unity by forcing Christians to circle the wagons and hold on tightly to one another, thereby becoming stronger in unity.

GOING DEEPER:

We're going to take an in-depth look at the life of Joseph, a man who suffered greatly in his life, but whose sufferings were sovereignly used by God to accomplish God's divine plan and purpose for His people.

1. Joseph's story begins in Genesis 37. Joseph's father is Jacob (or Israel), and Joseph is the second youngest of twelve brothers.

Read verses 1-11 and write a brief synopsis of Joseph's relationship with his father and brothers. Use a commentary to discover the significance of the tunic that Israel gave Joseph, and include that information in your synopsis.

Joseph's father, Israel, loved him more than his other sons and showed his favoritism by giving him a multicolored tunic. This signified Israel's desire for Joseph to be the future leader of the family, a role typically reserved for the firstborn son.

Joseph's brothers hated him because he was the favored one and could not even speak to him on friendly terms. Joseph's dreams, foretelling his future leadership of family, only served to deepen the hatred and jealousy they felt toward him.

2. Read the rest of chapter 37 and list every detail that shows God's sovereignty in the events that unfold.

Verse 15 – A man found Joseph wandering in the field where his brothers were supposed to be, and just so happened to know where the brothers had gone.

Verse 21 – Reuben would not let the brothers take Joseph's life.

- Verse 24 –** The pit they threw Joseph into was empty.
- Verse 28 –** Some Midianite traders came by, which gave the brothers an alternative to killing him.
- Verse 36 –** Joseph was sold to a top official in Egypt.

3. Read chapter 39 and note every reference to the phrase “the Lord was with Joseph” and record what impact that had on his circumstances.

- Verse 2 –** The Lord was with Joseph so he became a successful man.
- Verse 3-6 –** Joseph’s master saw the Lord was with him and caused everything he did to prosper, so he made Joseph his personal servant and put him in charge of all that he owned. The Lord blessed his house on account of Joseph!
- Verse 21 -23 –** After being falsely accused of attempted rape, Joseph was put into jail. But the Lord was with him there as well. He extended kindness to Joseph and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer, who put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners.

The Lord was with Joseph and showed him favor, but notice what God didn’t do for Joseph. He didn’t remove him from his unjust circumstances. He didn’t make a way for Joseph to be returned to his father. He blessed Joseph in the midst of his enslavement and mistreatment for the purpose of His greater divine plan for the future children of Israel.

4. Read Genesis 40-41
 - a. What is the “insult to injury” that happens to Joseph in chapter 40?
After interpreting the cupbearer’s dream, Joseph tells him of his kidnapping and false imprisonment. He asks the cupbearer to mention his situation to Pharaoh. After the cupbearer is restored to his office, he forgets about Joseph, and Joseph has to wait two more years until he is released.
 - b. What are the circumstances surrounding Joseph’s release from his imprisonment? How long after the events of chapter 40 does this happen?
Two years after being forgotten by the cupbearer, Pharaoh has a dream, which no one can interpret. This causes the cupbearer to remember Joseph and tell Pharaoh about him. Joseph is able to interpret Pharaoh’s dream and give him advice for how to prepare for the upcoming famine. Pharaoh is so impressed with Joseph’s counsel that he makes Joseph second in command of Egypt.
 - c. Which verses in Chapter 41 tell you that God is sovereign over the weather and uses it for His purposes?
Verse 28 – Joseph tells Pharaoh that God has shown him what He is going to do, namely provide 7 years of abundance and then 7 years of famine.
Verse 32 – After explaining Pharaoh’s dreams to him, Joseph tells him that the matter is determined by God; and He will quickly bring it about.
 - d. How old was Joseph when he was made second-in-command in Egypt? How many years had he been in Egypt at this point?
Joseph was 30 when Pharaoh put him in his prominent position. At this point, he had been in Egypt for 13 years.

5. Read Genesis 42-44.
 - a. What is the significance of 42:6 and 43:26 and 28?
The dreams he had as a teenager of his brothers bowing down to him were coming true.
 - b. What do you learn from 42:21 about how Joseph responded when he was sold into slavery?
It must have been a very anguishing scene. Verse 21 says Joseph's soul was in distress as he pleaded with his brother's to no avail.
6. Read Genesis 45.
 - a. Who does Joseph say is responsible for him being in Egypt? For what purpose?
Three times Joseph says that God sent him to Egypt (verses 5,7, & 8) for the purpose of preserving the family.
 - b. After Israel dies, Joseph's brothers fear that he will finally exact his revenge against them. Read Genesis 50:20-21 for Joseph's response. Why do you think he was able to respond this way?
Because Joseph chose to focus on God's good reason for having him in Egypt instead of focusing on his brothers' evil actions, he was able to show genuine kindness to his brothers and their families.
7. What can you learn from Joseph in regards to how you view God's sovereignty in your trials and hardships?
Answer should be well thought out and include Scripture where necessary.
8. Read James 1:12. How was Joseph able to persevere throughout the trials in his life?
Answers may vary. Here are some suggested answers from the text.
 - 1) He remembered God.
Even in a pagan land, he didn't forget his God. – Genesis 39:2, 21
 - 2) He feared God.
He refused the sexual advances of Potiphar's wife because he knew it was a sin against God – Genesis 39:9; 42:18.
 - 3) He believed God.
He believed that God would do what He revealed to Joseph in the dreams. – Genesis 41:28-33.

CHAPTER SEVEN: The Witness of Submission

1. Briefly detail the extraordinary circumstances that surrounded the beheading of James, the son of Zebedee as told in Foxe's Book of Martyrs.
James was the first apostle to be martyred in AD 44. As he was going to the place of his accuser was brought to repentance by the apostle's extraordinary courage in the face of death. He asked for pardon, claimed to be a Christian and resolved that James not receive the crown of martyrdom alone, so they were both beheaded at the same time!
2. Explain I Peter 3:1,2 & 7 in light of the context of I Peter.
Peter wrote this epistle to encourage Believers who were suffering persecution. In chapter 2, he tells the Christians to submit themselves to corrupt governments and masters, so that their patient endurance of persecution by these authorities will be a witness to unbelievers who then may be saved. In chapter 3, Peter applies the same idea to marriage between a Believing and unbelieving spouse. To wives, he admonishes them to submit to their unbelieving husbands in such a way that they are won to Christ by their chaste and respectful behavior (verses 1-2). To husbands with unbelieving wives, he admonishes them to live with their wives in an understanding way and to grant them honor as fellow heirs of grace so that their prayers for their wives' salvation will not be hindered (verse 7).
3. Write out verse 15 and explain it in the context of the book of I Peter.
"But 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."
In the context of the entire book, Peter is telling the Christians that when those in authority are treating them unfairly or they are in a difficult marriage to an unbelieving spouse, they need to plug themselves into the Word. This will cause them to grow in holiness and treat others with kindness so that unbelievers will see this strange behavior and ask them about the hope that lies within them.
4. Why is it important for Christians to keep a good conscience during times of persecution, according to I Peter 3:16-17?
It's better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong. If Christians can stay above reproach (and therefore keep a good conscience), then those who are slandering them will be put to shame for doing so.
5. At the end of chapter 3, Peter reminds his fellow Christians of Christ's suffering. What does he want them to remember?
Peter wants them to remember that Jesus suffered unjustly as well. In 3:18, he reminds them that Christ, the just, died for the unjust - us! He did this to bring us to God. If Jesus has so suffered for our benefit, then we can also suffer on His account.

GOING DEEPER:

1. I Peter 3:1-12 comes from one of the psalms. Which one is it that Peter is quoting from?
Psalms 34.
2. Read through the entire Psalm. Why do you think Peter quoted from this psalm?
It is a psalm regarding the Lord's protection and deliverance from troubles and afflictions.
3. How does David begin this psalm, particularly verses 1-3?
He begins with personal praise to God, as well as asking others to join him in corporate praise.
 - a. Why do you think David begins this way?
The reason is probably found in verse 4. David is rejoicing because he sought the Lord who answered him and delivered him from all of his fears.
4. In this psalm, David gives many examples of how God responds to people in distress. Beginning with verse 6, list how David describes these people and how God responds to them. The first one is done for you.

To whom does God respond?	What does God do?
Verse 6 - The poor man	Hears his cry and saves him from his troubles.
Verse 7 - Those who fear Him	The angel of the Lord encamps around them and rescues them.
Verse 8, 22 - Those who take refuge in Him.	Blesses. Does not condemn them.
Verse 9 - Those who fear the Lord	Provides for them (there is no want).
Verse 10 - Those who seek the Lord	Provides for them so there is no want of any good thing.
Verse 15, 17, 19, 21 - The righteous	His eyes are toward them; His ears are open to their cry. He delivers them from all their troubles and their many afflictions. He will condemn those who hate the righteous.

Verse 18 – The brokenhearted	He is near.
Verse 18 - The crushed in spirit	He saves.
Verse 22 - His servants	He redeems their souls.

5. Read I Peter 3:14&17. Is there a conflict of truth between these Scripture passages? How can you biblically reconcile the truth that God calls suffering for the sake of righteousness a blessing and something He may actually will for the Believer, with the promises in this psalm that He will rescue His people from all their troubles?

Answer may vary, but should be similar to: As we've seen in this study, the Bible promises suffering and persecution to Believers (2 Timothy 3:12) and tells us there are great benefits to it (James 1:2-4). Yet, in this psalm, God promises to deliver His people from all of their troubles. The best way to understand these truths is that God is speaking primarily of *spiritual* deliverance and rescue. This doesn't mean God never physically rescues people from their suffering, nor does it mean we can't ask for physical rescue or relief. But we must always remember that His main purpose is to rescue people from their *sin*. That is how both of these passages are true. Christians can, and will, suffer trials and persecution; yet at the same time they can rightfully declare that God has rescued them because He *has* rescued and delivered them from their sin.

CHAPTER EIGHT: Living a Holy Life Amidst Persecution

1. Historically speaking, what were the publicly stated reasons that Christians were persecuted?
They weren't necessarily persecuted for their faith, but for being enemies of the state, child molesters, narrow-minded bigots, cannibals (regarding the Lord's Supper), and other false, slanderous allegations.
2. Briefly detail how the Apostles James the Less, Matthias, Andrew and Mark were martyred.
**James the Less was 94 years old when he was beaten and stoned, and died by having his head bashed in with a club.
Matthias was stoned and then beheaded.
Andrew was crucified on a cross.
The people of Alexandria dragged Mark to pieces during the worship of their idol, Serapis.**
3. What is Peter's consistent and repeated message to persecuted Christians to whom he was writing?
Be holy!
4. According to I Peter 4:3-4, why are some of the Christians experiencing persecution?
They are no longer participating in the lifestyle of the Gentiles, which includes sensuality, drunkenness, partying, and self-indulgent excess.
5. In the midst of persecution, what does Peter tell the Christians to do in 4:7-11?
 - 1) **To be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer -verse 7.**
 - 2) **To be fervent in their love for one another - verse 8.**
 - 3) **To be hospitable to one another - verse 9.**
 - 4) **To use their spiritual gifts to serve one another and thereby glorify God - verses 10-11.**
6. Why these particular instructions to the Christians, instead of more specifically referencing their suffering?
Because living holy lives in the midst of suffering is a witness to the unsaved world, and especially to the persecutors themselves.

GOING DEEPER:

1. What is your understanding of what it means to be holy?
Answers may vary; Scripture references should be used as applicable.
2. Before we look at Scripture passages on holiness, we're going to look at the Hebrew definition of the word in the Old Testament.

There are two ways you can find this information:

- 1) Look up the word in a Strong's concordance or a Word Study Dictionary.
- 2) Go online to blueletterbible.org and follow these steps:

- In the large box that says, “Search the Bible”, type in *holy* and select NASB for Bible version, then hit the search icon.
- When the new page comes up, select the small box that says “Strong’s” located in the blue dashboard area.
- Now you’ll see a listing with all the verses that use the word *holy* (which will be highlighted in red). Next to the word *holy*, you’ll see its Strong’s number in blue. When you click on the number, it will give you its definition and other helpful information.

- a. What is the Strong's number for holy in Hebrew?

H6944

- b. What is its definition?

Apartness, holiness, sacredness, separateness, set-apartness of God, of places or things.

(The Greek meaning has the same idea, one of being separate and set apart. *Sanctify* is a similar word, meaning being set apart for God.)

- c. How does this definition line up with your understanding of holiness?

3. Keeping in mind the definition of being holy, let’s look at holiness in the Old Testament. Read the following verses and record what you learn.

Exodus 19:1-6 – **Three months after leaving Egypt, the children of Israel entered the wilderness of Sinai. God tells them (through Moses) that if they keep His covenant then they shall be His own possession among all the people of the earth. He desired them to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**

Leviticus 11:44-45; 19:2- **The Lord tells them to consecrate themselves (sanctify or set themselves apart from things that are unclean) and be holy for He is holy, and He is their God.**

Leviticus 20:26- **The Lord again tells them to be holy because He has set them apart from the peoples to be His.**

Deuteronomy 7:6-8- **The Lord chose Israel to be His own possession and to set His love on her out of all the nations of the earth. Because of this love, He rescued her from Egypt and brought her to Himself, and He called her His holy people.**

- a. Did any of these verses sound familiar? Which verses from 1 Peter quote directly from some of the verses above?

1 Peter 1:16 quotes Leviticus 19:2 and 1 Peter 2:9 quotes Exodus 19:6.

- b. According to these verses, what was Israel separated from? And for what purpose were they set-apart?

Israel was separated from their enslavement in Egypt, as well as from all other nations, to be set apart for the purpose of worship and service to the living God.

4. Now let's look at holiness in the New Testament. Keep in mind that *sanctify* has a similar meaning to *holy*, so some translations use *sanctify* in place of *holy*.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 – **Believers are the temple of God with the Spirit of God residing in us, and as such we are holy. God will destroy anyone who destroys His temple.**

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 – **Prior to salvation, Believers were unrighteous; but now they have been washed, sanctified and justified in the name of Jesus.**

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 – **The Lord is calling Believers to come out of the world and separate themselves. This means taking care not to bind ourselves with unbelievers. Just as light doesn't have fellowship with darkness, so it is that Believers cannot have genuine harmony with unbelievers because Believers are the temple of the living God.**

Hebrews 3:1 – **Believers are holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling.**

2 Timothy 1:9 – **God has saved us and called us with a holy calling according to His purpose and grace, not according to our works.**

1 Peter 2:5 – **Believers are being built up into a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**

Romans 6:5-7 & 11 give you further insight into what Believers are separated from and how it was accomplished.

- a. What are Believers separated from? And for what purpose are they set apart?
Believers have been separated and freed from sin (completely separated from the punishment for sin and being separated from its power). Therefore the Lord commands that they separate themselves from the world, which is in darkness due to sin. Having been separated from sin, they are set-apart for service to God as priests and are partakers of a heavenly calling.

Have you been separated from sin and set apart for God? If God has saved you, then this is your spiritual reality and your life will give evidence of this through your love for God and obedience to His Word. If you're unsure of your salvation, please take time to examine your heart and your life. 2 Corinthians 13:5 says, "Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you- unless you fail the test?"

CHAPTER NINE: Holiness vs. Morality

1. What is the consistent theme of I Peter?
Be holy!
2. According to Pastor Azurdia, what is the difference between morality and holiness?
Morality is primarily concerned with outward behaviors.
Holiness is much more comprehensive; outward behaviors are a manifestation of what's going on inside.
3. Pastor Azurdia gave a list of differences between the moral person and the holy person. Fill in the chart below with his list and then add any more differences that you can think of.

The Moral Person	The Holy Person
Abstains from wrong actions.	Hates the very thought of doing wrong.
Driven by what people perceive him to be.	Committed to what God wants him to be.
Mindlessly adheres to a list of dos and don'ts.	Ponders what brings the greatest pleasure to his Heavenly Father.
Keeps a meticulous record of his good deeds in order to win the favor of God.	Grieves that nothing he ever does, even for God, is completely free of any sinful or selfish motives. Therefore, he recognizes God's blessings as pure grace.
Lives by his own definition of what is right and wrong and loves to impose his definition on other people.	Allows the Word of God to direct his life. In anything beyond that, he guards the silences of the Bible, honoring the differences that freedom allows among those who love the same Savior.

4. According to Pastor Azurdia, how does holiness affect a person's life?
It affects the totality of a person: his mind, emotions, will, motives, conscience; what he does, where he goes, how he feels, what he thinks.
5. Pastor Azurdia claims that the great majority of Evangelical Christianity is morality-driven rather than holiness-driven. What does he mean by this?
Many Christians think the answer to our nation's problems is improved morality, such as getting prayer back in schools, reposting the Ten Commandments in our legal institutions, shutting down all Planned Parenthood clinics, and electing more Christian politicians.
6. What does the moralist fail to appreciate?
The gospel of transformation is far more powerful than the religion of prohibition. God has never advanced His cause by the means of a moral majority, but through the means of a holy minority.

GOING DEEPER:

1. Read I Peter 2:4-5 again and write the verses below.
"And coming to Him as to living stones, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God, you also as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."
 - a. What is God building of His living stones (Christians)? And for what purpose?
He's building a holy priesthood for the purpose of offering spiritual sacrifices to God.
2. Now read Romans 12:1.
 - a. What are Believers commanded to do, according to verse 1?
Present their bodies as a living and holy sacrifice.
 - b. Why?
He's building a holy priesthood for the purpose of offering spiritual sacrifices to God.
 - c. This command is based upon the mercies of God. Briefly look through the previous eleven chapters of Romans and list some of the mercies of God that Paul was referring to here.
Answers include: God's love, His grace to undeserving sinners, the gift of faith, the gift of salvation, the gift of Christ's righteousness, etc.
3. What does it mean in real life to present your body to Christ as a living and holy sacrifice? Read the following verses and record what you learn.

Galatians 2:20 –

The Christian has been crucified with Christ; that is, his old,

sinful self was spiritually crucified with Christ on the cross. Now, he lives by faith in Christ, who dwells within him.

Ephesians 4:22-24 – Here the Christian is being commanded to lay aside their old self and be renewed in the spirit of their mind. They're also commanded to put on the new self, which has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Philippians 1:21-24- Paul is expressing the Christian's desire that Christ always be exalted in his body, whether that be by life or by death, as the Christian's view of both is different than the world's (or should be). For the Christian, life is Christ – worshiping, serving, etc. - and death is gain because they get to spend eternity in His presence.

4. Colossians 3:12-17 is a description of how those who have been chosen by God, and are holy and beloved, should live. List each imperative given in this chapter.
 - 1) Put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.
 - 2) Bear with one another and forgive one another just as the Lord forgave you.
 - 3) Put on love.
 - 4) Let the peace of God rule your hearts.
 - 5) Be thankful.
 - 6) Let the Word of Christ richly dwell in you.
 - 7) Teach and admonish one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.
 - 8) Sing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
 - 9) Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.
5. How do the verses from questions 3 and 4 help you better understand the command given in Romans 12:1?

Answer should be similar to: To present your body as a living sacrifice means to recognize that your old self has been crucified with Christ and to live in light of that reality. This means choosing to lay it aside and put on the new self, which is made in the likeness of God. The result will be a change of heart, mind, behavior, and perspective of life and death. It will all be for God's glory, not our own.
6. Look over Pastor Azurdia's list of differences between the moral person and the holy person. How do the verses you read in this Going Deeper section address these differences?

Answer should be similar to: According to these verses, a holy person has been changed from the inside out by the power of God. His old self has been crucified with Christ and the new self that he puts on is created in the likeness of God. Therefore, his mind and heart have been changed, or are being changed, as he submits himself in obedience to God's Word. The result is a life marked by love, peace, thankfulness, forgiveness, compassion, kindness, etc. The moral person's behavior is driven by outside, fleshly forces and doesn't reflect true internal change. While his behavior can appear similar to that of the holy person, the motivation is very different. The holy person is living his life to the glory of God, while the moral person is living his life for his own glory.

CHAPTER TEN: Sanctified Through The Word

1. According to Peter's epistle, how do we grow in holiness?
By reading the Word.
 2. Pastor Azurdia said, "The Bible is not finally or fully understood unless we appreciate it in its own Christocentric emphasis." What did he mean by this statement?
The Bible is about Jesus Christ from Genesis to Revelation. When someone preaches, teaches or counsels from the Bible apart from its emphasis on Christ, then they have become a moralist. True Christian teaching, preaching and understanding centers on Christ and His finished work on the cross.
 3. How does understanding the Bible's Christocentric emphasis explain how Peter began his letter to persecuted Christians?
He began with the gospel because the Bible is Christocentric, not man-centric. Therefore, he began by reminding them of the gospel because it informs them how and why they are suffering; offering them hope and encouragement in the midst of their suffering by keeping their focus on Christ instead of their circumstances.
 4. Todd lists a chain of events that can happen when we don't read the Bible rightly, with its emphasis on the gospel. List that chain of events, and then explain where he gets this "chain" from.
 If we don't read It rightly ->
 we don't feed on It rightly ->
 we don't grow in holiness rightly ->
 we won't act rightly toward one another ->
 we won't respond rightly to persecution ->
 other people won't get saved ->
 God won't be glorified!
- This is the outline of Peter's entire epistle. In each chapter Peter reminds his readers of the gospel so they can grow in holiness in their attitudes and behavior in the midst of the suffering. This allows them to be a living witness to the power of the gospel, causing unbelievers to ask and possibly get saved, which results in God being greatly glorified!**
5. Pastor Azurdia said The Word is not a magic book. What did he mean by this statement?
Sanctification will never happen apart from The Word, but God must be the one wielding it in our lives in order for change to happen.
 6. What is the point of our sanctification through the Scriptures? What does this have to do with persecution?
The point of it all is engagement with the world, specifically the advancement of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the salvation of the unsaved. Thus, even persecution is about evangelization, a theme Peter has repeated throughout his epistle.

GOING DEEPER:

Sanctification is the process of being set apart, or made holy, for God's service. Two things are important to remember. One, it's a process. It happens over the course of a lifetime. No one is sanctified overnight. Two, no one ever reaches the end of sanctification in their lifetime. In other words, no one ever completely conquers sin in this life. According to I John 1:8, anyone who says he is without sin is a liar. So it's a lifelong process of being separated from the power of sin in our lives, and being set apart for God's holy use.

But who does the sanctifying, God or us?

1. Read the following verses and summarize what you learn about who, or what, produces holiness in our lives and how that is accomplished.
 - a. Philippians 2:13; I Thess. 5:23-24; Hebrews 13:20-21:
God (the Father) is at work in us, equipping us in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing to Him, and promising to sanctify us completely.
 - b. I Corinthians 1:30; Hebrews 2:12, 12:2:
Jesus (God the Son) accomplished our sanctification through His death and resurrection. He is both the author and perfecter (finisher) of our faith and is our sanctifier.
 - c. I Corinthians 6:11; Galatians 5:22-23; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; I Peter 1:2:
The Holy Spirit works with God the Father and God the Son to also sanctify Believers. He produces godly attitudes within Believers that enable them to live holy lives.
 - d. John 17:17; Ephesians 5:25-27:
**Sanctified through the Word, which is truth.
We are sanctified through the Word.**
 - e. Romans 6:12-13; 2 Cor. 7:1; Philippians 2:12; Hebrews 12:1-2
**In these verses, Believers are commanded to pursue and strive after sanctification.
They are to work out their salvation with fear and trembling.
They are to cleanse themselves from all defilement of the flesh by not allowing sin to reign in their bodies. Instead, they are to present the members of their bodies as instruments of righteousness.**
2. Based upon what you learned in Question 1, how would you explain who is responsible for a Believer's sanctification?
Answer should be similar to: Each member of the Trinity: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit play an important part in the Believer's sanctification. The Father does the calling, choosing and equipping. The Son does the achieving, making it possible for Believers to enter into the sanctification process and assuring its completion. The Holy Spirit does the internal work of changing the heart and mind to enable the Believer to live a holy life. And God's Word gives the direction for what it means to be

holy. Yet, there is also a call for the Believer to pursue holiness, to make deliberate choices not to sin, and to allow God to do the work of sanctification in their life through their obedience to His Word.

3. How do Believers grow in their sanctification? Read each verse and write down what you learn.

Matthew 4:4; John 17:17 – **Through reading (and obeying!) God's Word.**

Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 4:6 - **Through prayer.**

Hebrews 10:24-25 - **Through the fellowship and encouragement of other Believers.**

Matthew 28:19-20 - **Through witnessing and making disciples.**

4. In Colossians 1:9-12, Paul writes out his prayer for the Colossian believers. As you read it, you'll see that it is very much a prayer for their sanctification. List everything he prays for them to do or to be.

- 1) **Be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.**
- 2) **Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects.**
- 3) **Bear fruit in every good work.**
- 4) **Increase in their knowledge of God.**
- 5) **Be strengthened with all God's mighty power for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience.**
- 6) **Be joyful in giving thanks to the Father.**

- a. Note that *knowledge* is used twice in Paul's prayer. How do Believers gain knowledge of God's will and of God Himself?

Through God's Word; the Bible.

5. If you are a Believer in Jesus Christ, how is your sanctification going? Can you see progress in your fight against sin's power in your life? Are you daily yielding to the Lord in His work of sanctification in your life? Do you see the fruit of the Spirit reflected in your attitude and character? Take a few minutes to prayerfully examine your life and write out your thoughts. When you are finished, spend some time in prayer, and talk to the Lord about your sanctification.

CHAPTER ELEVEN: Designed by God

1. Briefly recap the book of I Peter, up to chapter 5.
Chapter One: Focus on the gospel and grow in holiness so your lives are a testimony to the unsaved; a true example of the power of the gospel.

Chapter Two: Be holy by reading your Bible and submitting to authorities, even those who are persecuting you.

Chapter Three: Submit to one another and joyfully endure persecution so that unsaved people (even those who are persecuting you) will desire the gospel and be saved.

Chapter Four: Repeat many of the same themes: grow in holiness and be loving to one another so that you are a bright light, which God will use to shine His truth into the darkness.
2. How did Dr. MacArthur answer the question, “Why does the world want to harm Christians?”
It really isn’t Christians the world hates, but Jesus. Since He isn’t here in person to persecute, the world persecutes His followers, within whom Jesus resides. Therefore, Christians take the blows meant for Jesus.
3. What was persecution designed by God to accomplish in a Believer’s life? And for what end result?
God designed persecution to accomplish a perfected faith, maturity, assurance, joy and eternal reward. The end result is that unbelievers see a Believer’s unwavering faith amidst persecution and are drawn to the gospel for salvation.
4. Briefly describe the martyrdom of Paul and Jude.
Paul was led out of the city to the place of execution where he then prayed and afterward was beheaded.
Jude was crucified at Edessa in AD 72.
5. In the context of I Peter, what is the importance of his instructions to elders to shepherd the flock in 5:2?
The context of the book is persecution. Therefore, in instructing the elders to shepherd the flock, he wants the flock to be good examples of Jesus Christ (in other words, living in holiness) in the midst of their persecution so that unbelievers will get saved.
6. What are the two repeated admonitions throughout I Peter?
Submit and be holy.
7. What is Peter’s prescription in Chapter 5 for the persecuted Christians who may be anxious or fearful? Write out the verse.
Verse 7: “Casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.”

GOING DEEPER:

1. In I Peter 5:5, Peter tells his readers to “clothe themselves with humility toward one another”. This is an interesting phrase, and one worth understanding. To discover its meaning, look up the verse in a Bible commentary, or go to blueletterbible.org and following the instructions from Chapter 8. This time however, type the verse in the Search Box and then select the Strong’s number after the word clothe. Write down everything you learn under the “Outline of Biblical Usage” section:

The word Peter uses for clothe refers to a knot or band by which two things are fastened together, to fasten or gird one's self. This was the white scarf or apron of slaves, which was fastened to the belt of the vest and distinguished slaves from freemen. Therefore, 1 Peter 5:5 ("gird yourselves with humility as your servile garb") encourages Christians to show their subjection one to another by putting on humility. This could also refer to the overalls which slaves wore to keep clean while working—an exceedingly humble garment.

- a. Now look at the Strong’s word for humility. What is its definition?
 - 1) Having a humble opinion of one's self
 - 2) A deep sense of one's (moral) littleness
 - 3) Modesty, humility, lowliness of mind.
2. What reason does Peter give for them to clothe themselves with humility toward one another?
Because God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.
 3. The last part of verse 5 is a quote from the Old Testament and is used in another New Testament book. Find where else it is used in the New Testament.
James 4:6.
 4. Look at the surrounding verses in both passages (I Peter 5:5 and your answer to question 3). Is there a similar command in the surrounding verses? Write out the verses that are similar.
I Peter 5:8-9a, “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him...”
James 4:7, “Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will free from you.”
 5. What is the connection between pride and the devil? Read the following verses that describe Satan before and after God cast him out of heaven. What caused his downfall?
Ezekiel 28:11-19 and Isaiah 14:12-14
According to the Ezekiel reference, Satan had the seal of perfection and was full of wisdom and perfect in beauty (verse 12). He was blameless in his ways until unrighteousness was found in him (verse 15). His heart was lifted up because of his beauty and his splendor corrupted his wisdom (verse 17). In the Isaiah reference, we learn just how corrupted he became. In his pride he declared that he would ascend to heaven, that he would raise his throne above the stars of God, and that he would make myself like the Most High (verse 14). His pride made him an enemy of God; he desired to usurp God’s authority and receive the worship that is due to God alone.
 6. Referring back to I Peter 5, how is the devil described? What is he doing?
He is described an adversary, prowling like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

- a. Using a Strong's concordance or blueletterbible.org, look up the definitions of *adversary* and *devil* in I Peter 5:8, and record them here.
Adversary means an opponent (in a suit of law) or enemy.
Devil means false accuser or slanderer.
- b. Who is the devil accusing or slandering? Read Revelation 12:10 for the answer.
He accuses the brethren (Christians) before God day and night.
7. How might the devil try to devour the persecuted Christians to whom Peter is writing? Use verses from chapter 5 to support your answer.
Answer should be similar to: He may be trying to sow seeds of discord among them by tempting them through their fleshly pride in refusing to humble themselves in submission to their elders. Thus, Peter calls them to clothe themselves with humility toward one another (verses 1-6). The devil also could be trying to discourage the Believers into thinking that their suffering is punishment from God, or a sign that God has abandoned them. That would explain why Peter reminds them to resist the devil by standing firm in their faith; knowing that other Believers are also suffering and that God is using their suffering to perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish them in Christ Jesus - verses 9-10.
8. What is Peter's last line of this letter?
"Peace be to you all who are in Christ" (verse 14).
 - a. Do you think the persecuted Christians felt God's peace after reading this letter?
Answer should be well thought out, with the use of Scripture to support their answer.

CHAPTER TWELVE: When the Theological Rubber Meets the Road

1. Why does Peter have more theology than practical application in his epistle?
He leaves it to his readers to make applications suitable to their time and place of persecution.
2. How does Dr. MacArthur apply Peter's teaching on persecution? What two things did he say to do in persecution?
**1) Boldly proclaim the message that brought about the persecution (the gospel).
2) Take your stand with holy courage and boldness.**
3. What is the result of the blood of the martyrs?
The propagation of the gospel.
4. How does one get ready for persecution?
By reading your Bible as if your testimony depended on it, because it does!
5. Why is it important to prepare for persecution?
It will be hard in the moment of suffering to maintain a testimony unless you've been growing in your testimony and are already becoming a testimony prior to the persecution.

GOING DEEPER:

1. The epistle of I John begins with John explaining how he and the other apostles were eyewitnesses to the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Read I John 1:1-3 and list everything that made them eyewitnesses.
**They heard him— verses 1 & 3.
They saw him with their own eyes – verses 1, 2 & 3.
They beheld him – verse 1.
Their hands handled him (they touched him) – verse 1.
They bore witness of Him – verse 2.**
 - a. Look up the transliteration of witness (or testify) in I John 1:2 using a Strong's concordance or blueletterbible.org. The transliteration is the English spelling of the Greek word. What is the transliteration of witness in I John 1:2? Does it remind you of another word in English?
The transliteration of witness is martyreō, from which we get the word martyr.

Interesting fact: In its original Greek, this word simply means someone who bears witness or testifies of something. But because so many of the early witnesses for Christ were killed for their testimony, this word became synonymous with someone who dies for their faith.
2. John 17 is often called The High Priestly Prayer. On the night Jesus was betrayed, He prayed for Himself in regards to His upcoming suffering and death, and also interceded on behalf of His disciples as His time with them was coming to an end. Jesus also mentioned those who

would believe in Him through the word of His disciples (verse 20). That includes all Believers right down to this present day!

Read John 17:13-21 to see what Jesus prayed for those who believe in Him.

- a. Why will the world hate Christians?
Because they are not of this world – verse 14.
 - b. What did God ask and not ask of the Father in verse 15?
He did not ask that God take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one.
 - c. What does Jesus say about God's word in this passage?
He had given His disciples God's word – verse 14.
God's word is truth – verse 17.
We are to be sanctified in God's word – verse 17 & 19.
 - d. Notice Jesus mentions being sent into the world. Who sent whom?
God sent Jesus, and Jesus sent His disciples – verse 18.
 - e. What is Jesus' desire for His disciples and all Believers as they endure the hatred of the world? (Check out the opening and closing verse of this particular passage.)
That His joy may be made full in themselves – verse 13.
That they all may be one as the Father and Son are one – verse 21.
That they would be in Us, the Father and the Son – verse 21.
 - f. What is the result of the Believers being united in God the Father and God the Son?
That the world would believe that God sent Jesus – verse 21.
3. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ (you have repented of your sins and trust in Christ alone for salvation), then Jesus' prayer in John 17 is for you. Read the entire chapter thinking of Jesus interceding on your behalf before the Father. Don't rush through this! Take the time to read this chapter slowly, reflectively, and prayerfully. When you are done, write a prayer back to the Father in response to what you have just read.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN: What is Your Thing?

1. One last time, recap the book of I Peter by briefly summarizing each chapter.

Chapter One: Focus on the gospel and grow in holiness so your lives are a testimony to the unsaved of the power of the gospel.

Chapter Two: Be holy by reading your Bible and submitting to authorities, even those who are persecuting you.

Chapter Three: Submit to one another and joyfully endure persecution so that unsaved people (even those persecuting you) will desire the gospel and be saved.

Chapter Four: Repeat of many of the same themes: grow in holiness and be loving to one another, so that you are a bright light that God will use to shine His truth into darkness.

Chapter Five: Elders, shepherd the flock well; young people, submit to your elders. Everyone, cast all your cares upon Him because He cares for you and don't forget, heaven is yet to come!

2. What did Jesus come to do? Find the verse that Todd quotes and write it below.

Luke 19:10, "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

3. What did Jesus command us to do? Find the verse Todd quotes and write it below.

Matthew 28:19-20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

4. Briefly describe how Peter was martyred.

He was crucified in Rome; crucified upside down because he said he was unworthy to be crucified in the same manner as Jesus was.

5. So...what is your thing?

GOING DEEPER:

1. Read through the entire book of I Peter one more time. As you do, look for the specific references to Christians suffering, trials, being slandered, etc. Write out the verses below.

I Peter 1:6-7, “In this, you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

I Peter 2:12, “Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

I Peter 2:18-21, “Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable. For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God. For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you to follow in His steps.”

I Peter 3:8-9, “To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.”

I Peter 3:14-17, “But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, but 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 Peter 4:1-2, “Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.” (You may want to read a commentary to help you understand the meaning of this verse.)

I Peter 4:12-13, “Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.”

I Peter 4:14-19, “If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; but if anyone suffers as a

Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name. For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved, what will become of the godless man and the sinner? Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right."

I Peter 5:8-10, "Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you."

2. Look through the above verses and list how the Christian is to respond to suffering and unjust treatment and why they are to have such a response.

How the Christian is to Respond	Why?
With rejoicing	Because his faith is being tested and will prove true. He will rejoice with Christ returns
By keeping behavior excellent	So that the unsaved will glorify God
By patiently enduring it	This finds favor with God, as Christ also patiently endured His suffering
By having the same attitude as Christ who also suffered in the flesh unto death	So his life (in the flesh) can be lived to the glory of God and not the lust of the flesh
By not being surprised	Because his faith is being tested by sharing in the sufferings of Christ
By not being ashamed	Glorify God in Jesus' name
By entrusting his soul to God	Because he is suffering according to God's will and can trust Him to do what's right
By standing firm in his faith and resisting the devil	Because God has a purpose for the suffering which is to mature him in his faith.

3. Spend some time reflecting on the list above. You may not have had to endure outright persecution in your life, but you've no doubt been treated unjustly at one time or another for being a Christian. Did you respond biblically? Why or why not? Write out your thoughts and then spend time praying about how you can more biblically respond to those who mistreat you.

4. Thinking about everything you learned in this DVD on persecution from the context of I Peter, write out what you would say to a fellow Believer who is enduring persecution or unjust suffering right now. Be sure to support your thoughts with Scripture.

If you want further information about how to become a Christian, please go to www.wretched.tv. You'll find helpful (and free!) information on what it means to be a Christian and how you can know for sure you're saved.