



# The Battle Scars of Following Christ

## Galatians

### 6:17-18

**17 From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. 18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.**



# Galatians 6:17

- From now on let no one cause me trouble,



**This opening clause may give us more insight than any other phrase as to how bothered Paul is by the Judaizers.**

**From this point forward...**

**Paul is one sentence away from concluding the letter and once again he addresses the theological trouble makers.**



# Galatians 6:17b

- for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.



**Paul is talking about  
scars. These are  
physical visible marks  
from being persecuted.**



# Talk About Irony

The Judaizers are concerned about a mark on the flesh and Paul is describing marks on his flesh.



**This is more than irony.**

**Paul says his scars are authenticate marks of being a true follower of Christ.**

**Whereas the mark of circumcision does NOT authenticate anything.**

**Today, I would argue that the scars from the reproach of Christ, the scars from being in churches full of sinners, and the scars from NOT abandoning the faith are also the marks of truly being a Christian.**

**As opposed to the mark of baptism which is momentary and quite frankly guarantees nothing.**



# Jesus Told Us

Matthew 5:11-12



# Matthew 5:11

- “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.



**Sometimes it feels like your life would have less trouble, difficulty, suffering if you were not in a church or you did not serve in a ministry.**

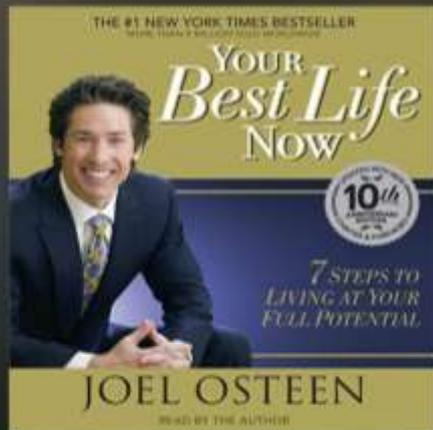
**But we are in the church on account of Christ.**

**We are the church.**



# Matthew 5:12

- Rejoice and be glad, **for your reward is great in heaven**, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.



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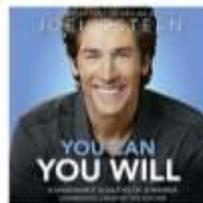
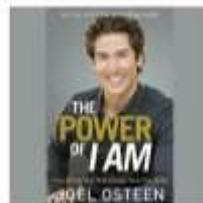
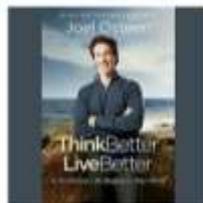
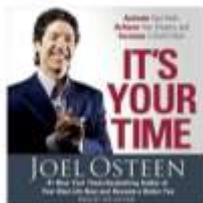
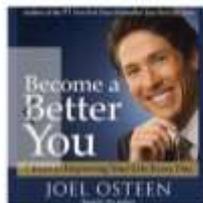
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**We don't believe Matthew  
5:11-12.**

**We doubt that our God will  
reward us for living out our  
faith amid persecution.**



# Jesus Told His Disciples

## Matthew 24



# Matthew 24:9

- “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake.

**Unless you are an American Christian...**





# Turn to Acts 14

v. 19-22

<sup>19</sup> But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. <sup>20</sup> But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe. <sup>21</sup> When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, <sup>22</sup> strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, **and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.**



# Revelation 1:9

- I, John, your brother and **partner in the tribulation and the kingdom** and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.



# Philippians 3:10

- that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, **and may share his sufferings**, becoming like him in his death,



# Paul Described this In Detail

## 2 Cor 11:23-27



**23 Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—  
I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors,  
far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and  
often near death. 24 Five times I received at the hands  
of the Jews the forty lashes less one. 25 Three times I  
was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned.**

**Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; <sup>26</sup> on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; <sup>27</sup> in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.**



**What did Jesus say  
about this?**

**Turn To  
John 15:18ff**



# John 15:18

- “If **the world** hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.



# How do Jesus & the Apostles use the word the 'world'?

# World



- 1. As in this planet and the people on the planet (John 3:16).**
- 2. The world order or worldview that is atheistic in nature and characterized by rebellion to God's existence, authority and rule over humanity (John 15:18).**



# Galatians 6:14

- But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, **by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.**



# Look Back @

## John 15:19



# John 15:19

- If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, **therefore the world hates you.**



**If we are honest, we don't want the world to hate us. We may be neutral, that is: I don't care if I am loved, but I prefer not to be hated by the world.**

**And this desire to NOT be hated—dims our light and lessens our impact.**



# Matthew 5:13–14

- **“You are the salt of the earth,** but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.  
<sup>14</sup> **“You are the light of the world.** A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.



**Why does the  
world hate us?**

**Why did the world  
hate Jesus?**

# Exclusivity

**Jesus claimed to be the  
one and only eternal Son  
of the one and only true  
and Living God and the  
Jews crucified him for it.**



**Nothing Has  
Changed.**

**We believe our God is the one and only Creator God of the Universe which gives Him and Him alone the Sovereign right to rule over all the created Universe.**

**And we believe He is not the God of the Muslims or any other religion that rejects Jesus as the one and only eternal Son of God; including cults that claim to have and use our Bible as part of their religion, but reject Jesus partially or entirely.**

**We believe salvation from the wrath of God is only available to those turn to the God of Bible and put their faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ for their sins to the exclusion of anything and everything else.**

**And that this repentance toward God and faith in Christ is a work of God's grace toward the sinner such that God alone is glorified in the salvation of every soul saved.**

**We believe our sacred book the Bible is the only book God wrote.**

**We believe through His Holy Spirit every writer was inspired to pen the words of the text in their own language such that the truth God desired to be communicated was recorded.**

**We believe God has preserved that word today for peoples in all languages.**

**And that as such God's Word is entirely authoritative for all of creation, for all time without end until the return of Christ.**

**It is the standard for our faith and every aspect of our lives where it communicates truth and or intent.**

**It is the source for our morals and values and should impact even our preferences.**

**We believe we have a greater allegiance to our King and His Kingdom, Our Lord and His Church than any human governing authority or national entity on this planet.**

**And this perspective impacts our way of thinking, our priorities, and the way we do life. We are called to be utterly set apart as the people of God.**

**We believe upon death all humans will give an account before God for their relationship with Him and the life they lived, whether good or evil.**

**We believe life does not end at death. Humans have souls that live for eternity either with God or separated from God in a place of torment.**

## **We believe our Bible teaches us that:**

- 1. Gender is determined by God and is not fluid or different from biological sex.**
- 2. Marriage was defined by God as one male and one female.**
- 3. Only opposite sex attraction is lawful and permissible.**

## **We believe our Bible teaches us that:**

- 4. All humans are made in the image of God and as such must be treated as image bearers of God.**
- 5. Life in the womb and out of the womb is sacred.**
- 6. There is one race of people—the human race—Adam is the father of every human alive today.**



# John 15:20

- Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' **If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.** If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.



## 2 Timothy 3:11

- **my persecutions and sufferings** that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me.



## 2 Timothy 3:12

- Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus **will be persecuted,**



# Suffering Comes From Inside & Outside the Church

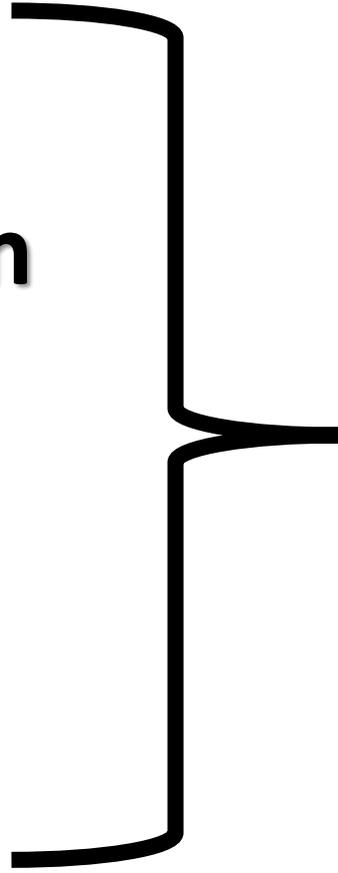


# 1 Peter 4:12

- Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.



1. Hatred
2. Persecution
3. Tribulation
4. Suffering
5. Afflictions
6. Trials



**Are all part  
of the  
Christian life**



*Teaching the* **TRUTH**

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# Suffering & Persecution

Create scars—physical,  
emotional, etc.



**We must embrace the Christian perspective on all forms of suffering.**

**Mt 5:12, Romans 8:18; 2 Cor 4:17-18**



# Matthew 5:12

- Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.



## Romans 8:18

- For I consider that **the sufferings of this present time** are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.



## 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

- For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, <sup>18</sup> as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.



Turn To

Hebrews 11:23-26

**By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. <sup>24</sup> By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, <sup>25</sup> choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. <sup>26</sup> He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.**



## 2 Timothy 1:8, 2:3

- Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, **but share in suffering for the gospel** by the power of God,
- **Share in suffering** as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.



## Acts 5:41

- Then they left the presence of the council, **rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.**



## 2 Thessalonians 1:5

- This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering—



**What makes suffering even more difficult is when it comes from within the church or greater body of Christ.**

**Turn to Matthew 13:21**



# Matthew 13:21

- yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, **and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word**, immediately he falls away.



**Insults, disagreements, accusations, hurt feelings, etc., are not sufficient to cause me to leave the local/collective church.**

**Scars are evidence that one has been injured but recovered.**

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**It is like this:**

**It is NOT that I haven't been hurt,  
offended, etc.**

**Rather His grace is sufficient.**



## 2 Corinthians 12:9

- But he said to me, “**My grace is sufficient for you,** for my power is made perfect in weakness.”  
Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.