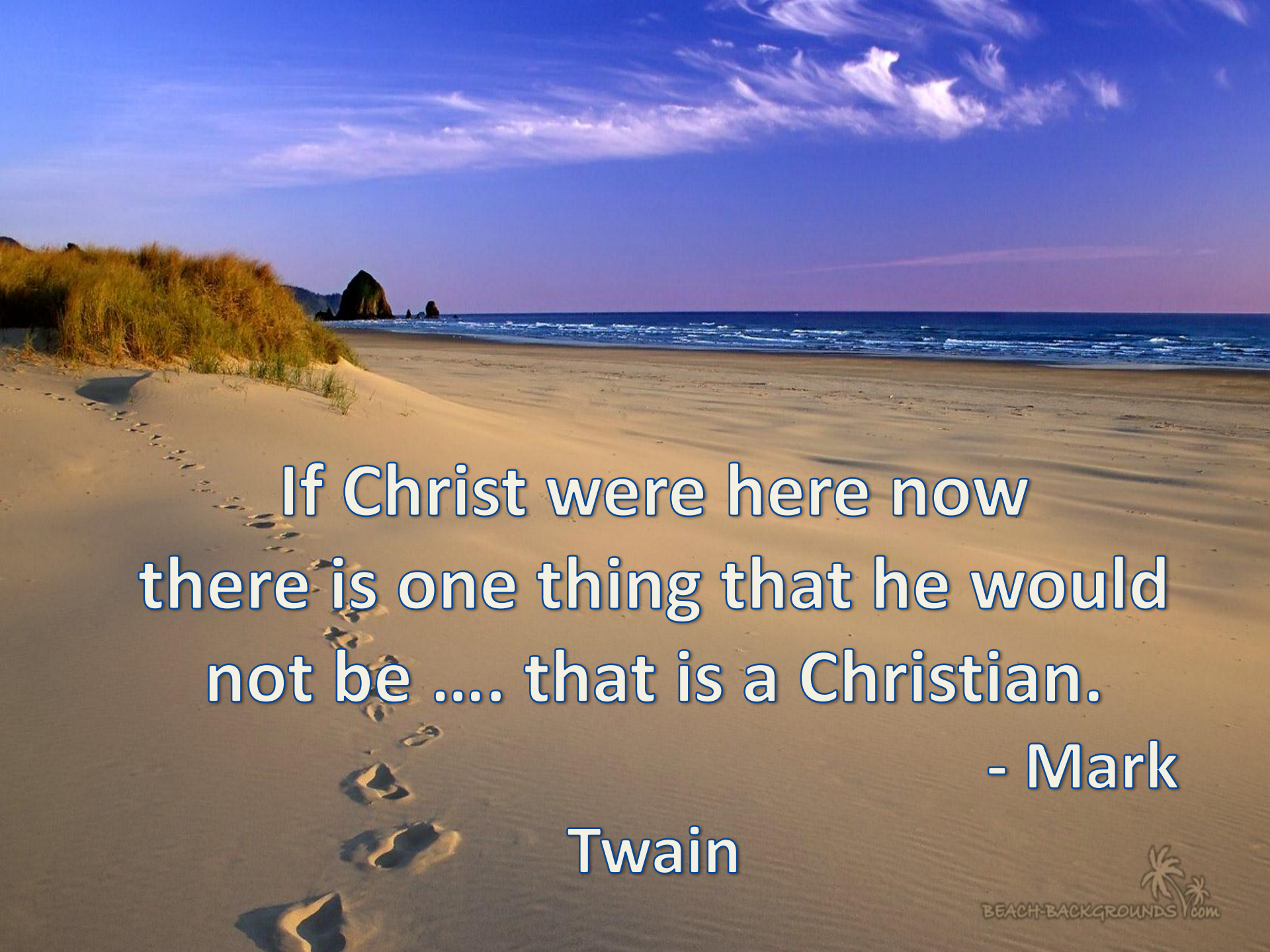


Conduct for Those Wearing the Name “Christians”



I Pt. 4:12 - 19



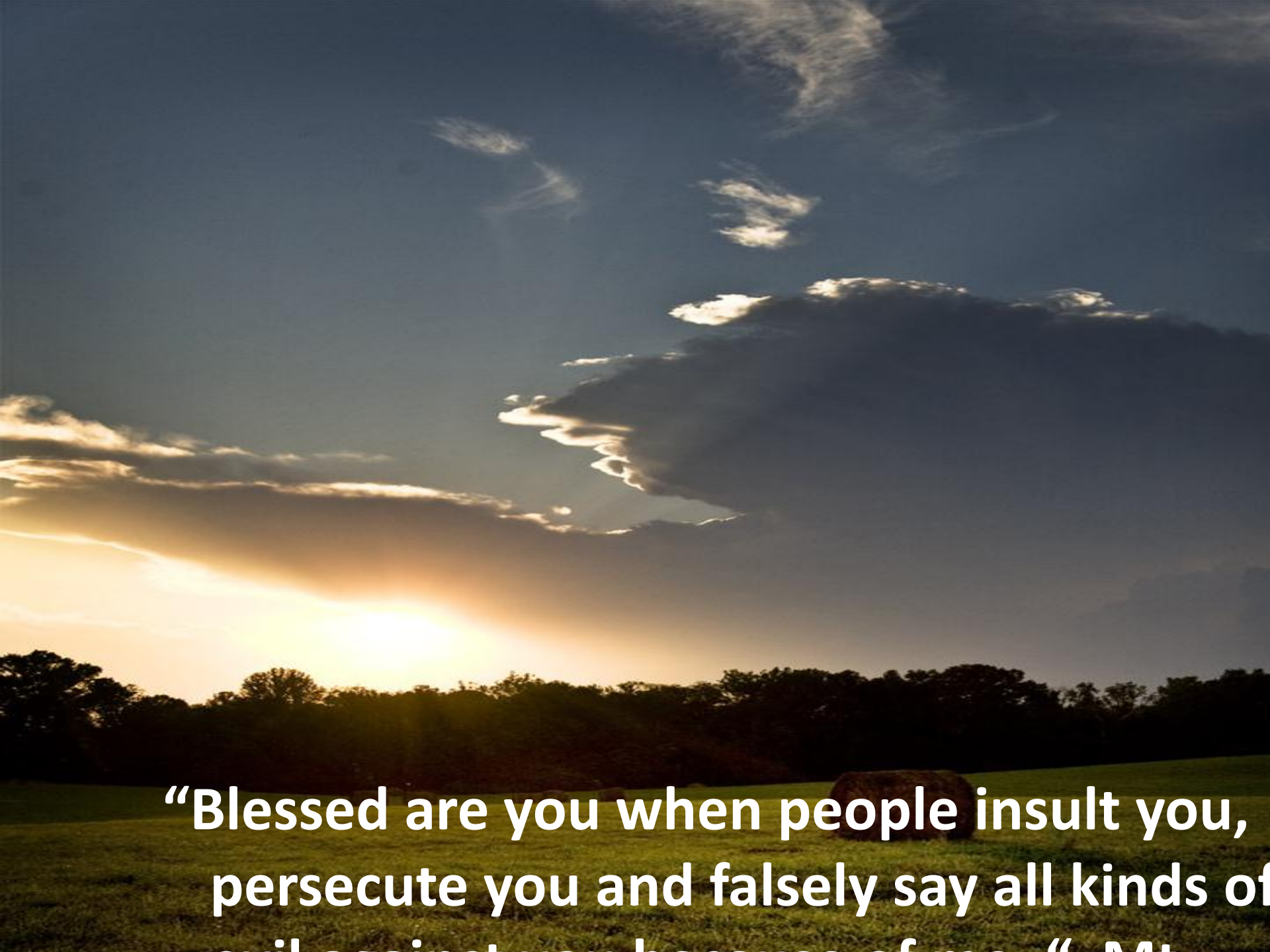
If Christ were here now
there is one thing that he would
not be that is a Christian.

- Mark

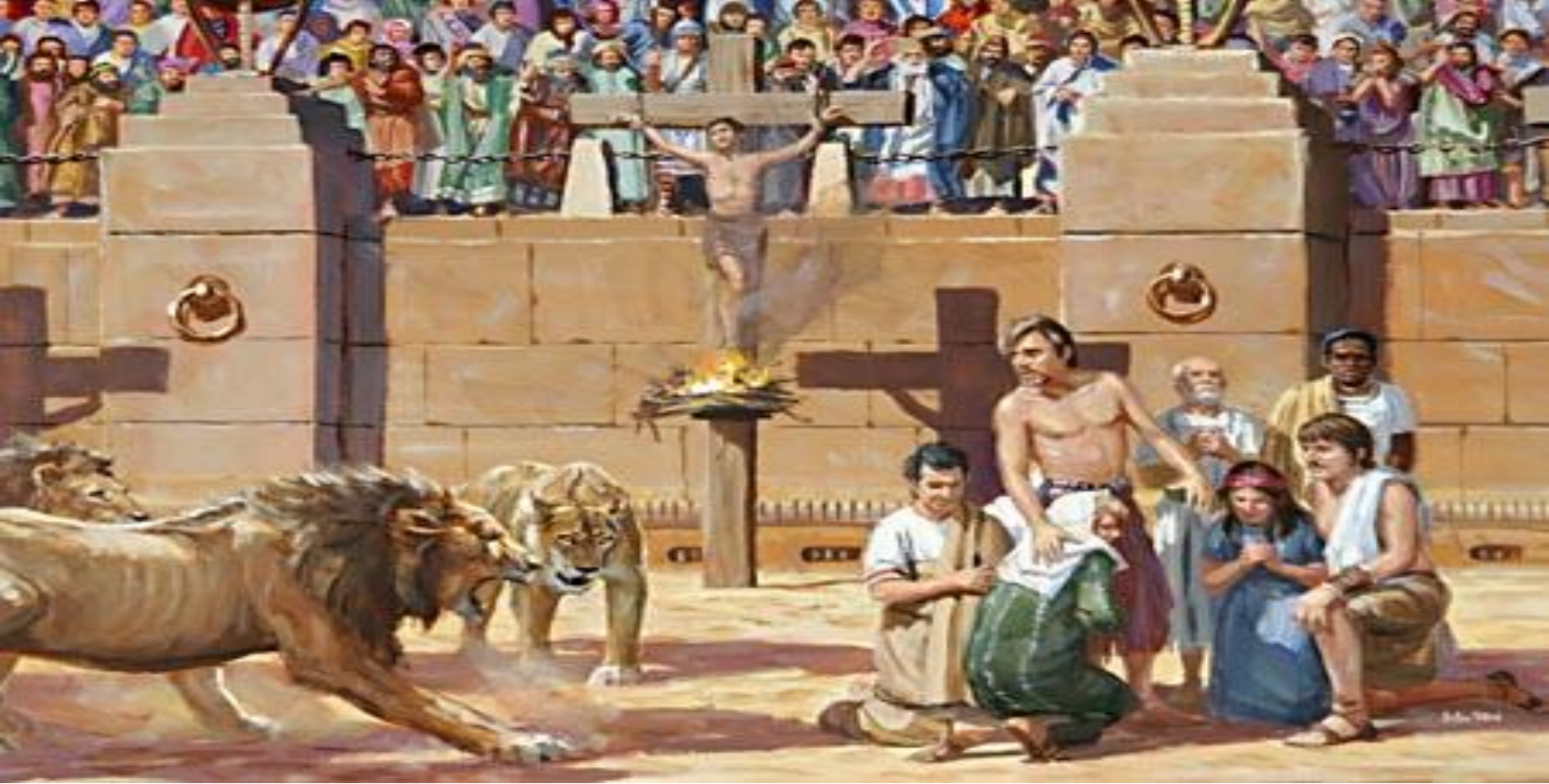
Twain



Jesus disciples are sometimes forced to suffer for His sake.



**“Blessed are you when people insult you,
persecute you and falsely say all kinds of
evil against you because of me.” Mt**



Both the bible and history document that sufferings (persecution) of the 1st century Christians

I. Peter gives a



of the Coming Persecution

I Pt. 4:1 – 6; 12 – 14, “Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ² that he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

³ For we *have spent* enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles-- when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

⁴ In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with *them* in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of *you*. ⁵

They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶

For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

¹² Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³ but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. ¹⁴

If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed *are you*, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

There are two things that can help us through moments of suffering:

- Understanding that the suffering is temporary and some day Jesus is coming to take us home.
- Understanding that the Spirit of God will give you the strength to endure the suffering.

1 Peter 4:14 - 19 (NKJV)

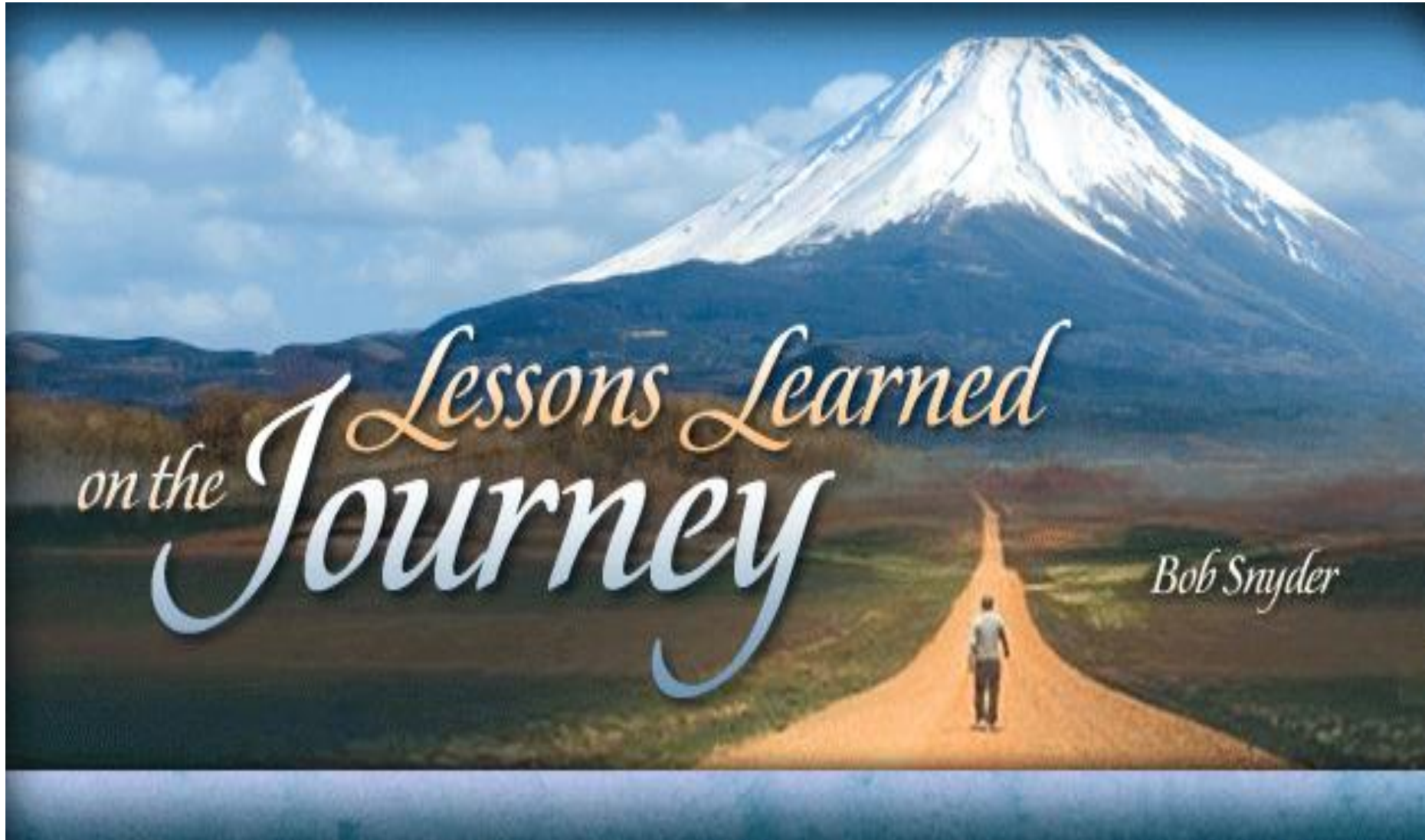
¹⁴ If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed *are you*, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. ¹⁶ Yet if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

¹⁷ For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ Now "*If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?*" ¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls *to Him* in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

II Thess. 1:7 – 9, “and to *give* you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, ⁸ in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

II. Peter's Advice



**First, be grateful for the relative
calm of our day and for our
religious freedom**



Second, use the opportunities to work in the kingdom which our peace and freedom provide for us.



Third, “fortify” your faith.



Fourth, express sympathy to Others



Anywhere I see suffering,
that is where I want to be,
doing what I can.

Princess Diana

Fifth, remember God Protects & Provides for His People.



Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

III. A Final Thought About Suffering



Hebs 4:15, “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. “

James 1:2 - 4, “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds,³ because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.⁴ Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

Perseverance



So follow these two steps for victory over trials:

- Commit yourself to your Father and strive for perfection in all that you say & do.
- Then continue to do good as long as you are alive. (I Pt. 4:19)

Conclusion:

Christianity is not an exercise in naïve optimism.

- Christians have been told that there would be a great price to pay for following Jesus.
- Like Jesus himself, Christians are called to endure suffering for doing the will of God.

Anyone not willing to pay the price,
is not worthy of wearing the name
of Christ, and will be Judged accordingly.

It is essential, that in our time of crisis we should not be alone.

- We need to turn to our God & Savior, and the Holy Spirit for help.
- Even if we die for our faith, we are confident that a crown of life awaits us.
- Because of this, we can make any sacrifice that is necessary to wear the name of Christian, because then we have something to hold on to.