

June 27 & 28, 2020



God does not promise us immunity.

Matthew 16:15 *Then he asked them, "Who do you say I am?"*

16 Simon Peter answered, *"You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."*

17 Jesus replied, *"You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. 18 Now I say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.* (NLT)

You are living stones.

1 Peter 2:4 *As you come to him, the living Stone — rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him— 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

What is normal?

John 16:33 *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

1 Thessalonians 3:4 *In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know.*

2 Timothy 3:12 *In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,*

1 Peter 4:12 *Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.*

Three Stories

The fall and rise of Joseph

Genesis 50:20 *You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.*

The imprisonment of Paul

Philippians 1:12 *Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. 13 As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.*

14 *Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.*

Philippians 4:22 *All the saints send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household.*

The martyrdom of Stephen

Acts 8:1 *And Saul was there, giving approval to his death. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. 2 Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. 3 But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.*

*4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.*

Acts 11:19 *Now those who had been scattered by the persecution in connection with Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, telling the message only to Jews. 20 Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. 21 The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.*

God does promise us eternity.

Matthew 19:27 *Peter answered him, "We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?"*

28 *Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. 30 But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.*