Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus
will be persecuted **(2 Timothy 3:12)**.

We know that we are children of God,
and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one **(1 John 5:19)**.

Roman imprisonment was preceded by flogging—a humiliating, painful, and bloody ordeal. The wounds went untreated as prisoners sat in painful leg or wrist chains. Mutilated, bloodstained clothing was not replaced, even in the cold of winter. Most cells were dark, especially the inner cells of a prison. …
Unbearable cold, lack of water, cramped quarters,
and sickening stench from the few toilets
made sleeping difficult and waking hours miserable.
Because of the [harsh] conditions, many prisoners begged for a speedy death. Others simply committed suicide.
That was the reality for these first believers.

-John McRay

When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

1. We're citizens of another kingdom.
2. Our identity with Jesus links us to his persecution.
3. Jesus confronts the world with its sin and guilt.

- Don't be afraid.
- Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.
- Share your faith.