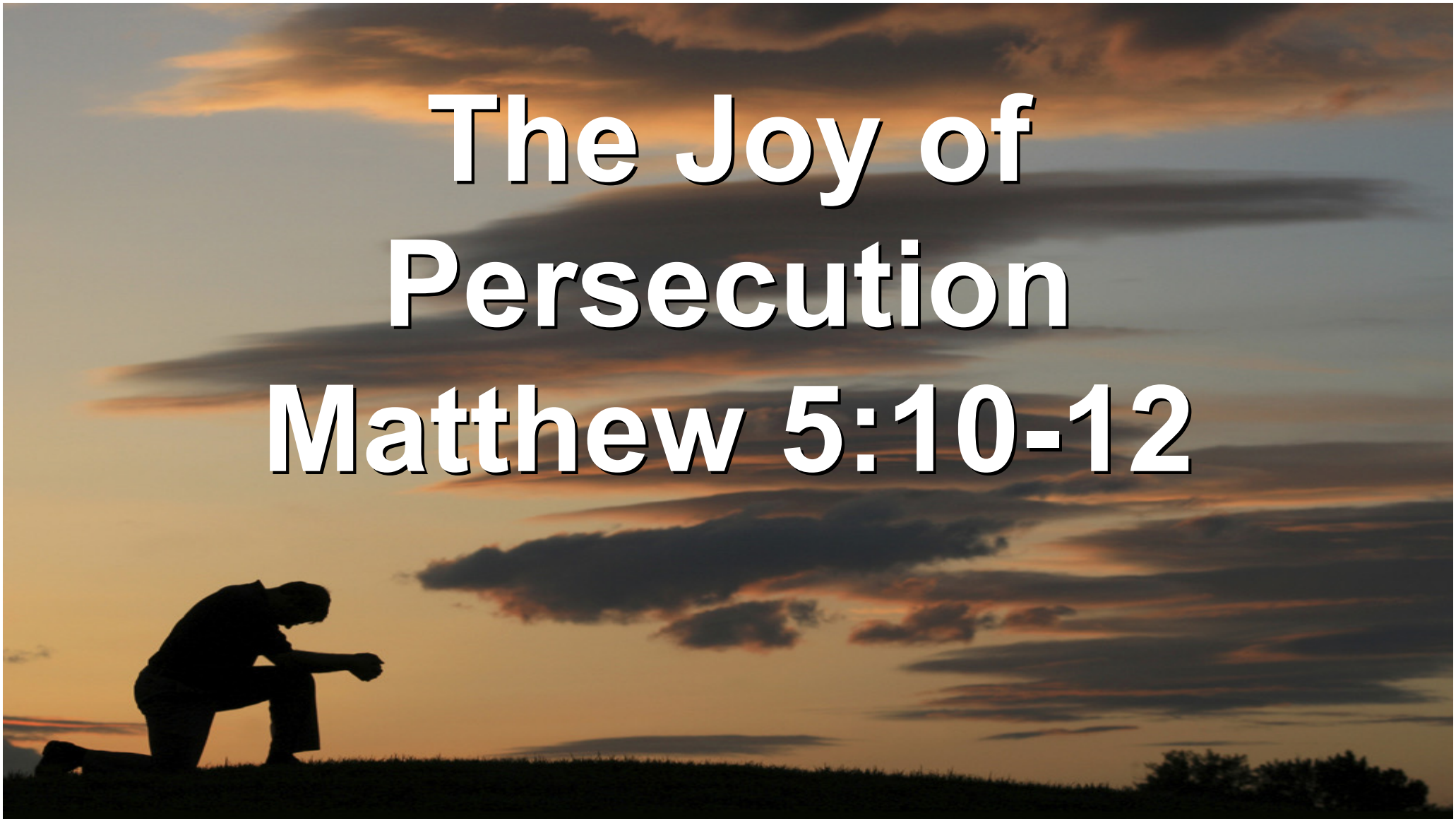

Right Attitudes for
Kingdom Living
Matthew 5:1-12


The Joy of
Persecution
Matthew 5:10-12

MATTHEW 5:1–2 (ESV)

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

MATTHEW 5:3–5 (ESV)

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

MATTHEW 5:6–8 (ESV)

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

MATTHEW 5:9 (ESV)

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

MATTHEW 5:10 (ESV)

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

MATTHEW 5:11 (ESV)

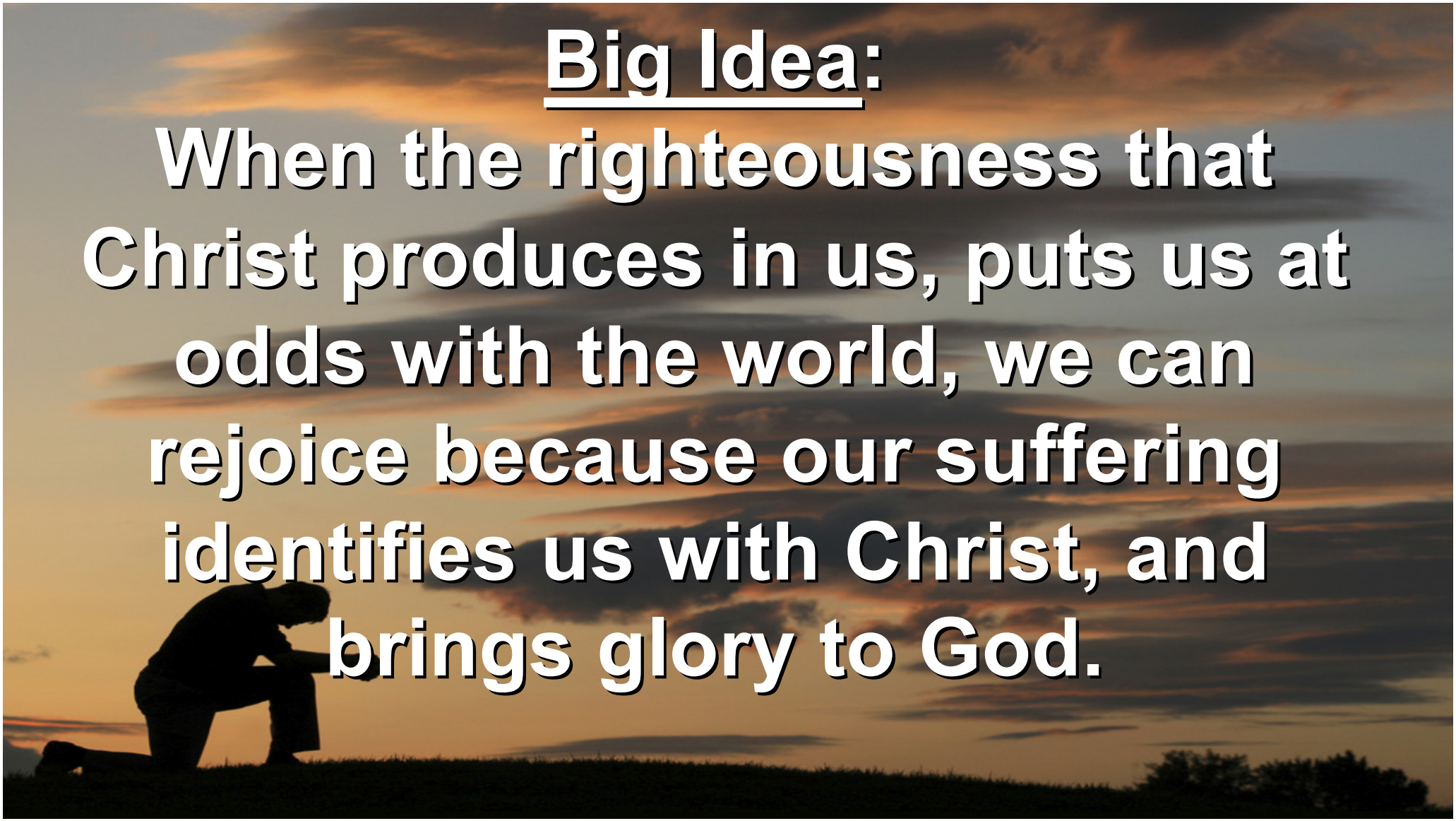
"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

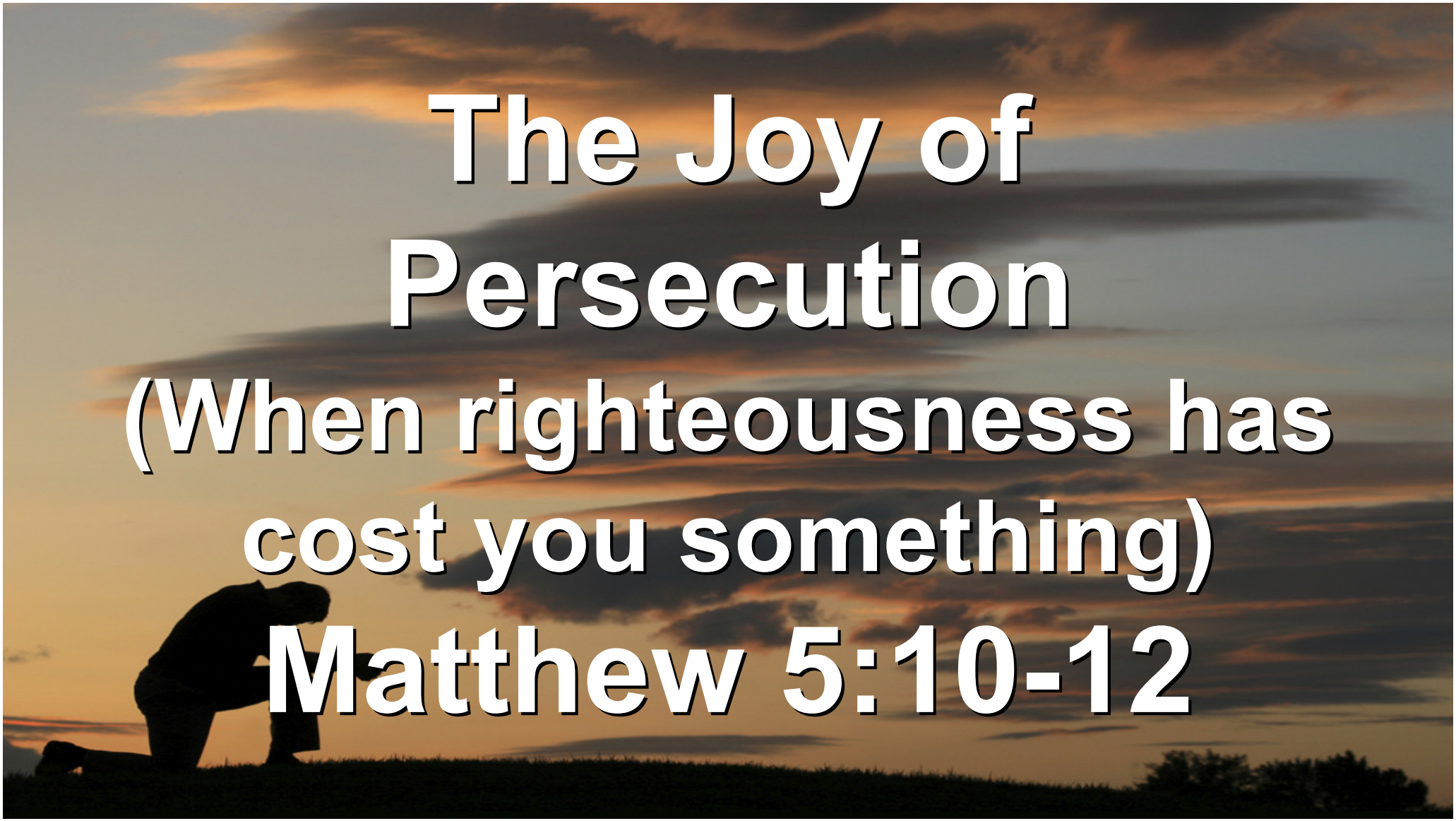
MATTHEW 5:12 (ESV)

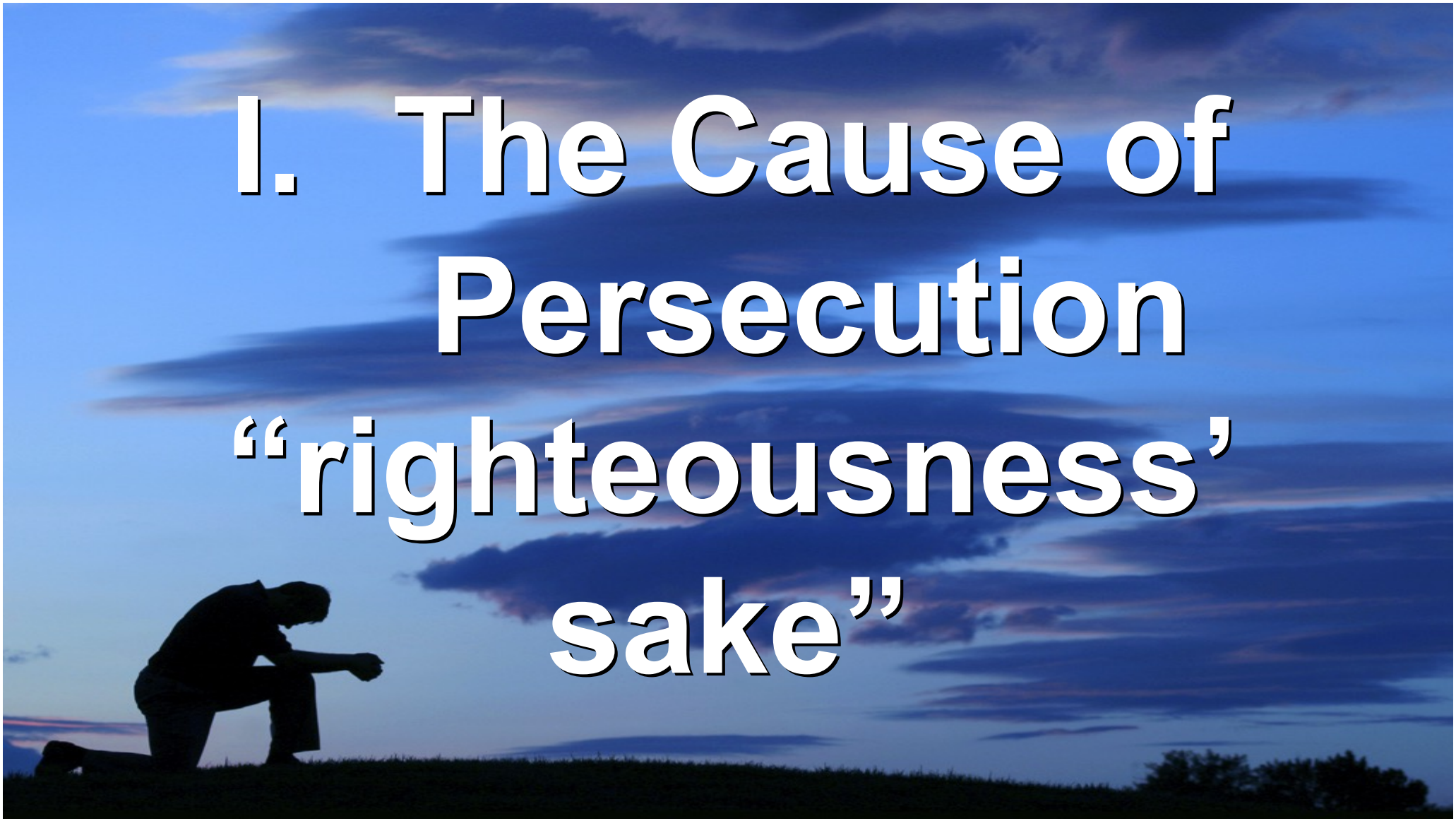
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Word of God for the People of God!

Thanks Be to God!


Big Idea:
When the righteousness that Christ produces in us, puts us at odds with the world, we can rejoice because our suffering identifies us with Christ, and brings glory to God.


The Joy of
Persecution
(When righteousness has
cost you something)
Matthew 5:10-12


I. The Cause of Persecution
“righteousness’ sake”

MATTHEW 5:10 (ESV)

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Righteousness ultimately points to the Righteous One---Christ.

The Progression of the Beatitudes

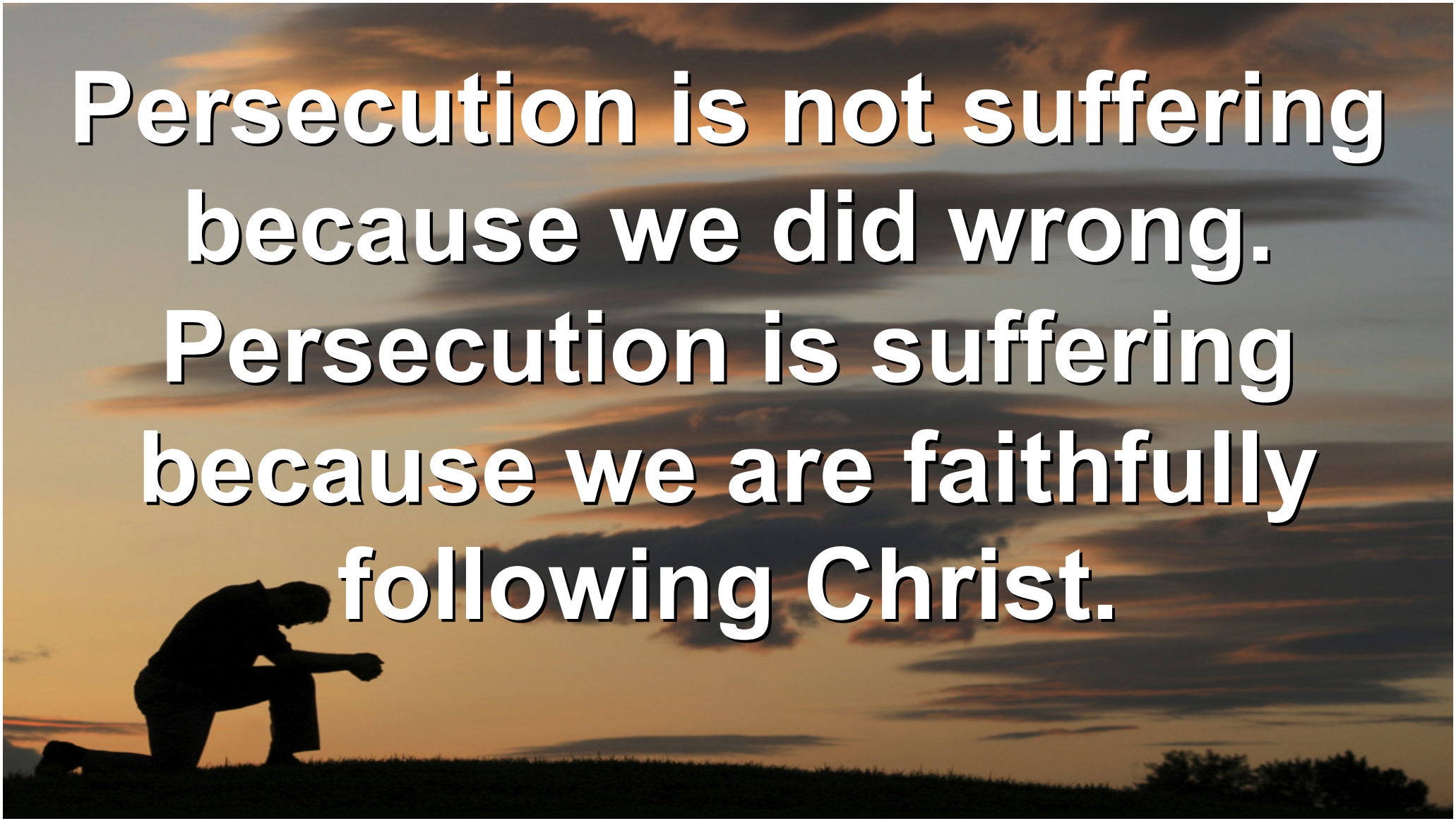
Kingdom Standard for Righteousness

MATTHEW 5:20 (ESV)

For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Righteousness brings us into conflict with a world that does not share our values.

Poor in Spirit →Mourning Over Sin→ Meekness→ Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness→Merciful→ Pure in Heart→ Peacemakers→Persecuted

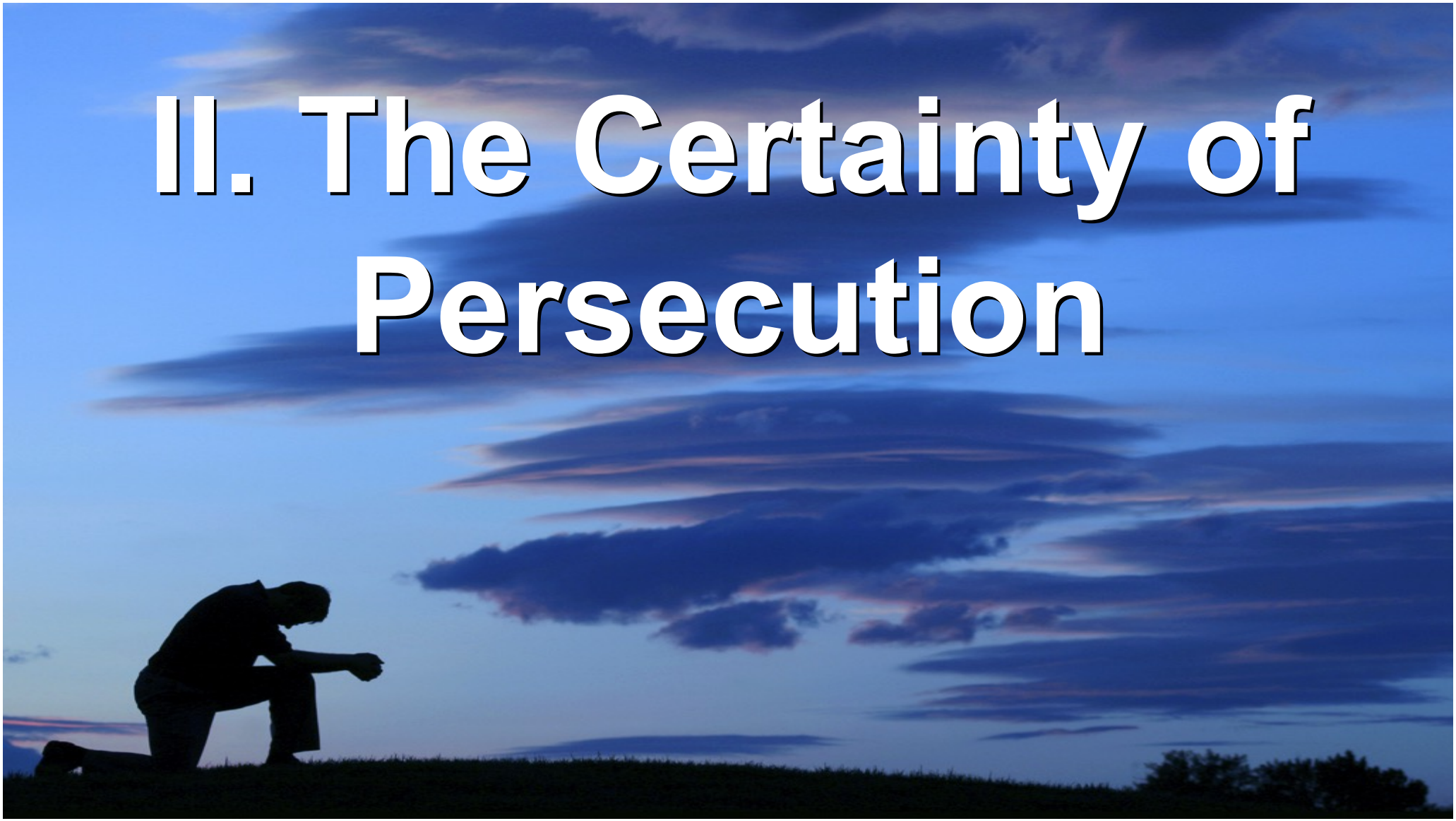

Persecution is not suffering because we did wrong. Persecution is suffering because we are faithfully following Christ.

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

John 15:18–19 **ESV**

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.

John 15:20 **ESV**


II. The Certainty of Persecution

MATTHEW 5:11 (ESV)

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

2 TIMOTHY 3:10 (ESV)

You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness,

2 TIMOTHY 3:11 (ESV)

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 (ESV)

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

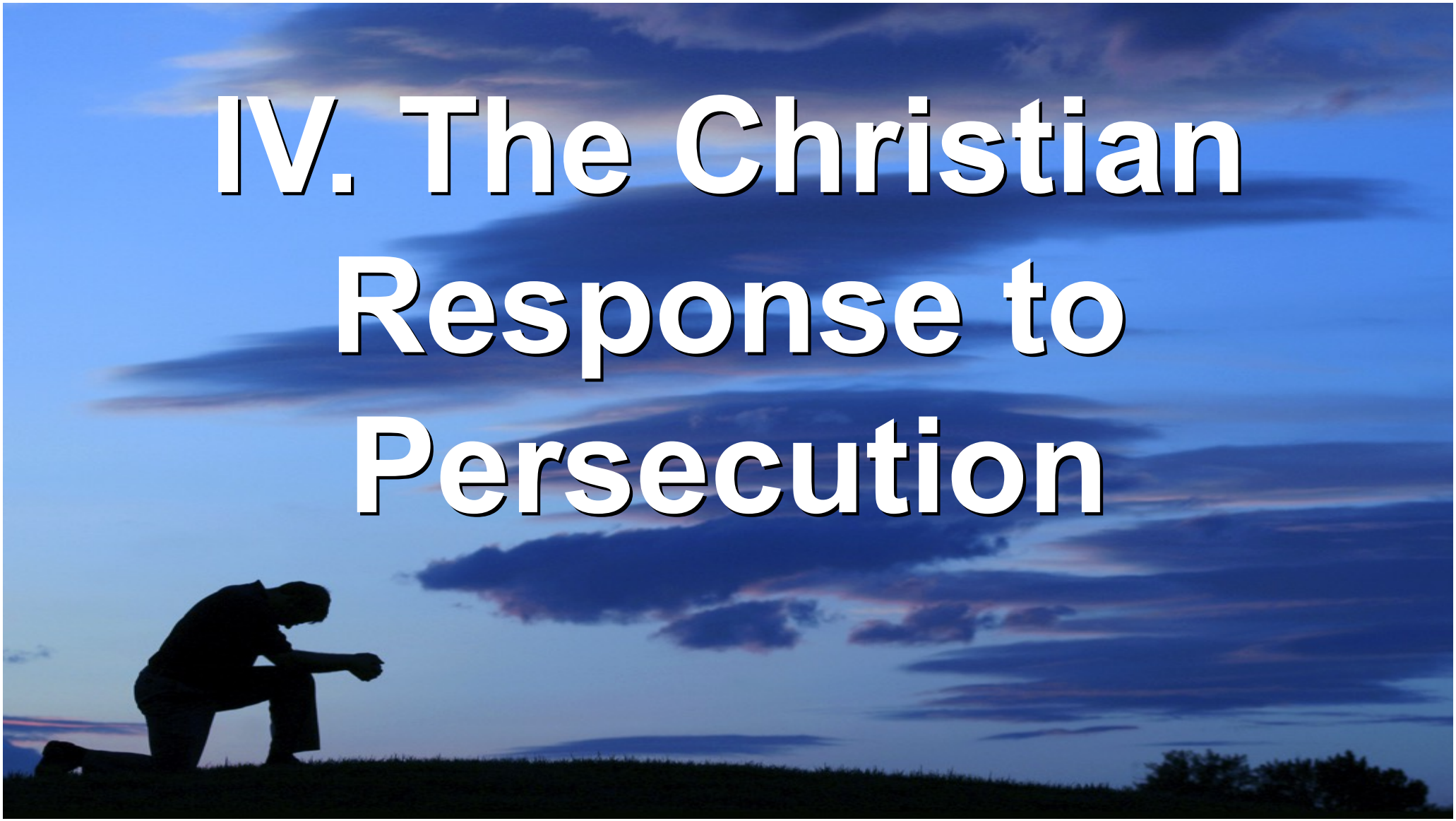
Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

1 PETER 4:12 ESV

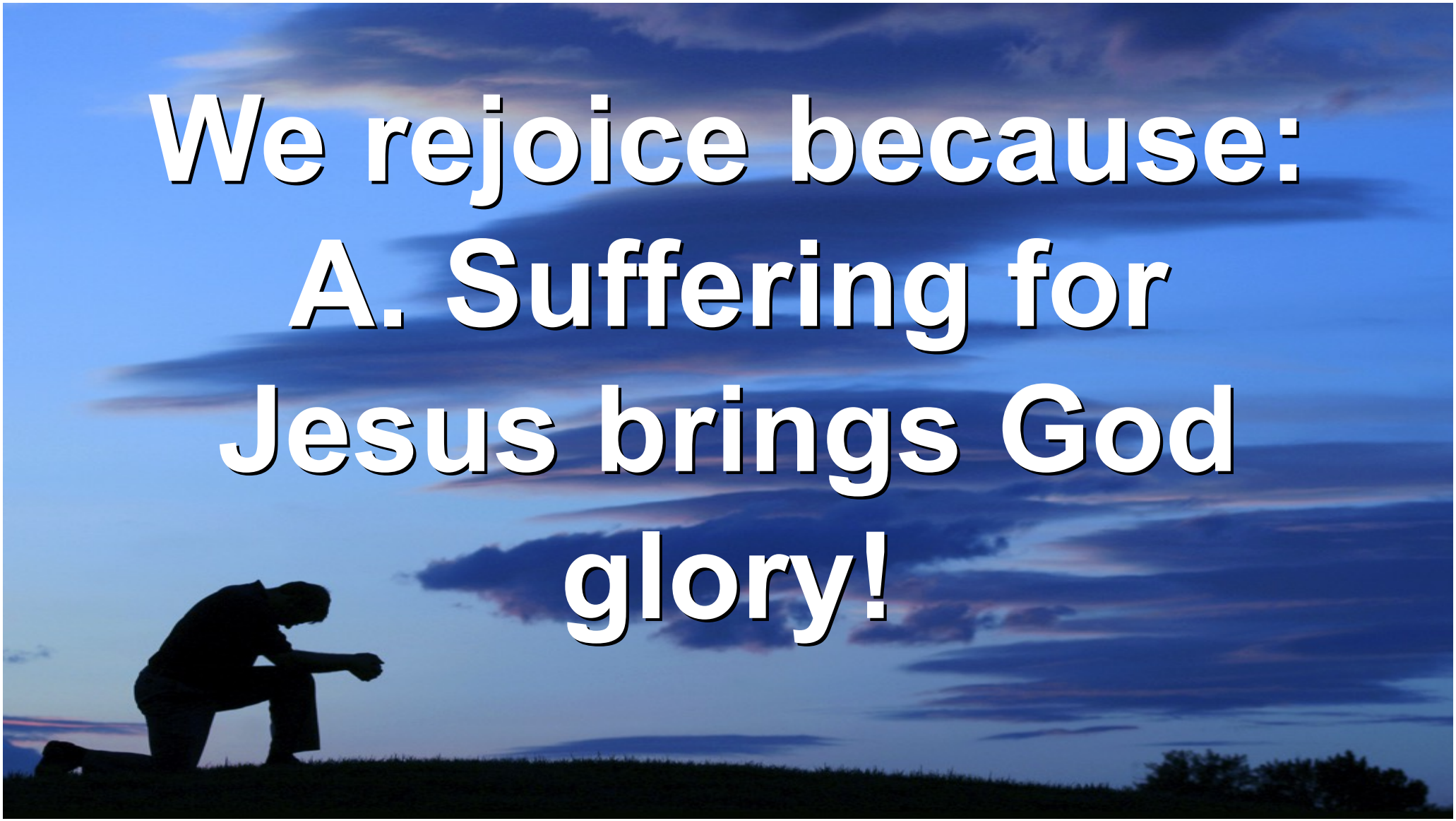

III. The Company of Persecution

MATTHEW 5:12 (ESV)

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


IV. The Christian Response to Persecution


Rejoice


We rejoice because:
A. Suffering for
Jesus brings God
glory!

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 PETER 4:12 ESV

But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

1 PETER 4:13 ESV

If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

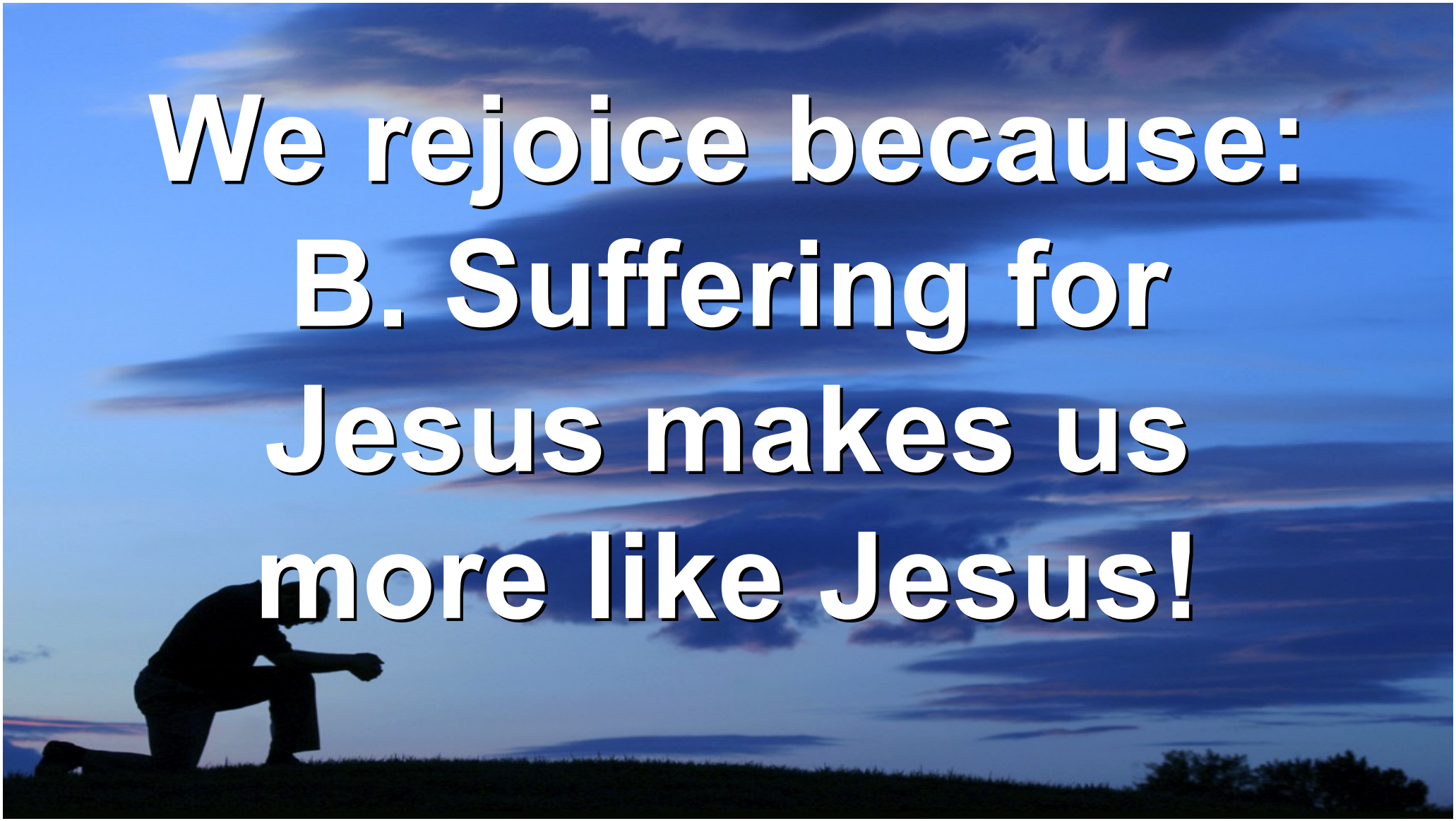
1 PETER 4:14 ESV

But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

1 PETER 4:15–16 ESV

Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

1 PETER 4:19 ESV


We rejoice because:
B. Suffering for
Jesus makes us
more like Jesus!

PHILIPPIANS 3:10 (ESV)

That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death,

But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.

1 PETER 2:20 NIV

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

1 PETER 2:21 NIV

“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

1 PETER 2:22–23 NIV

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

1 PETER 2:24 NIV

For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

1 PETER 2:25 NIV


We rejoice because:
C. Our Reward is
Eternal

MATTHEW 5:12 (ESV)

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

For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 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.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:17–18 ESV

Bookends

…for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

MATTHEW 5:10 (ESV)

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

MATTHEW 5:11 (ESV)

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

and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this.

1 THESSALONIANS 3:2–3 ESV

For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know.

1 THESSALONIANS 3:4 ESV