

It's Been Easy To Be A Christian in The United States Of America



1 Peter 4:15-17

Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name. For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

2 Timothy 3:12

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

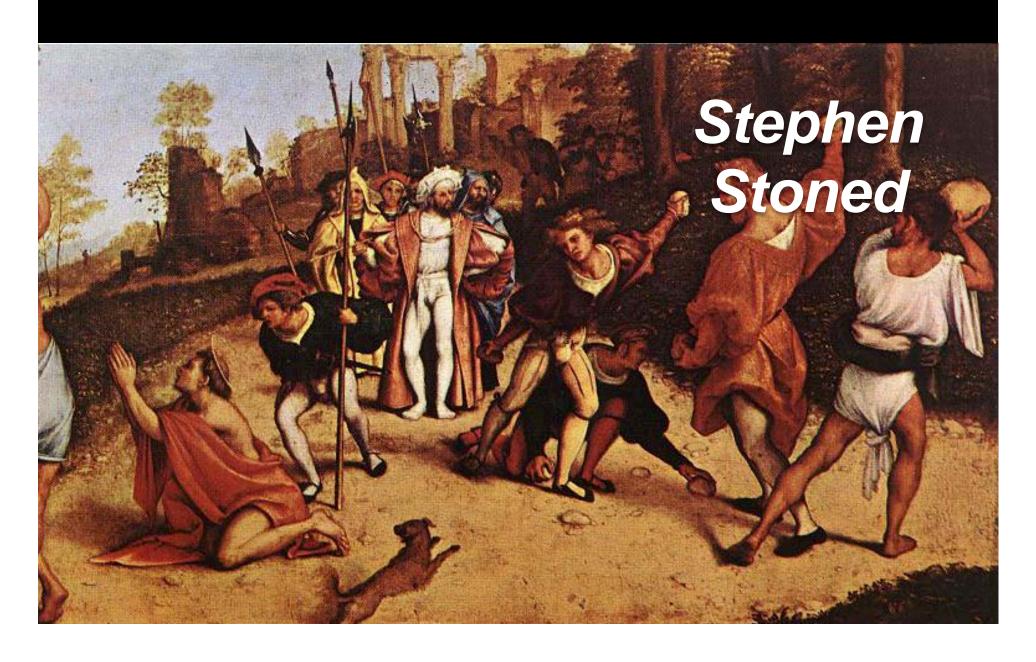
Matthew 5:10-12

"Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

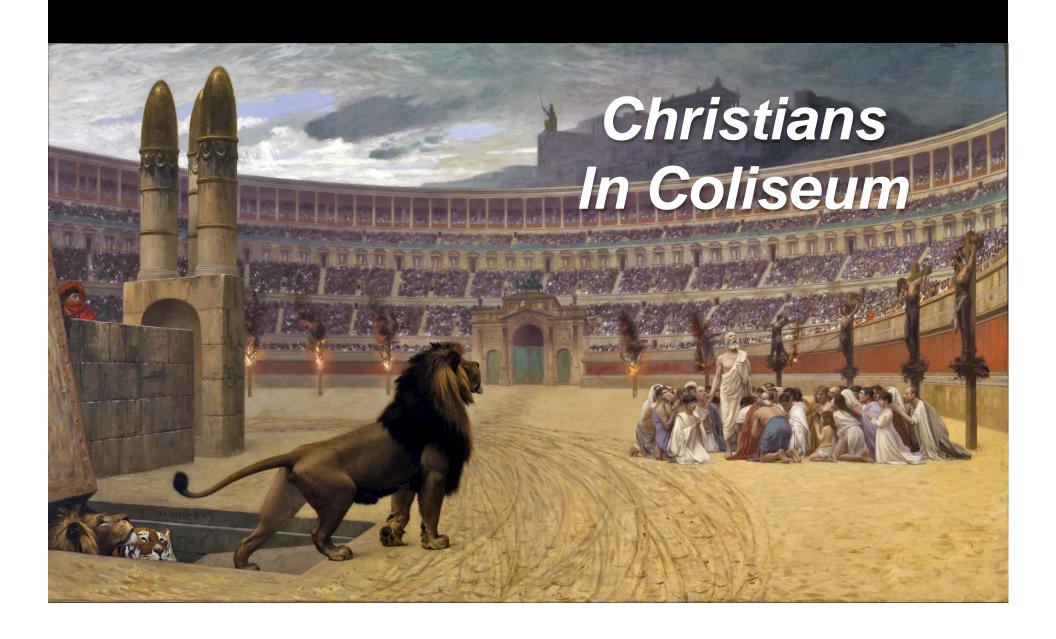
Amos 5:14 - 16

Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and thus may the LORD God of hosts be with you . . . Hate evil, love good, and establish justice in the gate! Perhaps the LORD God of hosts may be gracious to the remnant of Joseph. Therefore thus says the LORD God of hosts, the Lord, "There is wailing in all the plazas, and in all the streets . . . They also call the farmer to mourning and professional mourners to lamentation."

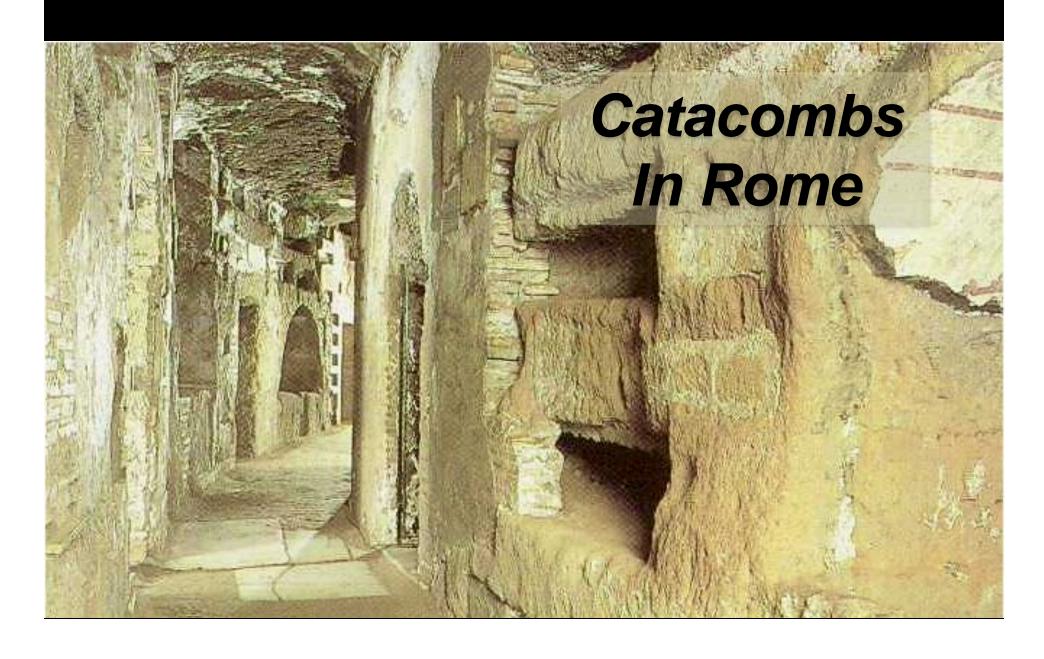
Early Christians Suffered



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Holy Spirit Focus Us Our Destiny - Eternal Glory

"Holy Spirit Testifies"

Romans 8:16-17

Four types of "if" in Greek

1. Reality

v. 17 (2x)

- 2. Impossibility
- 3. Probability
- 4. Possibility

"Glory That Is To Be Revealed"

Romans 8:18

2 Cor. 3:17-18

Col. 3:4

1 John 3:2

Eph. 1:18

"Creation
Anxiously
Longs"

Romans 8:19



"Creation
Was
Subjected To
Futility"

Romans 8:20



Genesis 3:17-19

Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life.

Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field;

By the sweat of your face

You will eat bread . . .



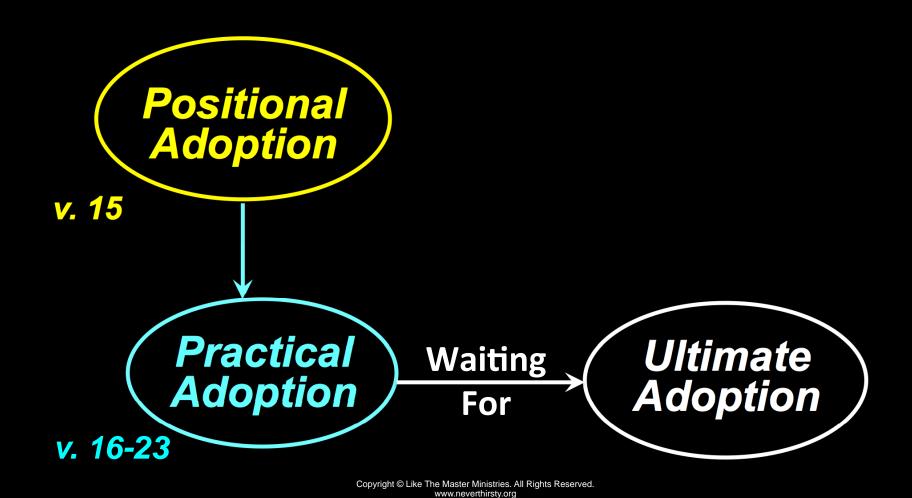
"Creation Groans & Suffers"

Romans 8:22

Hosea 4:1-3, 4-9
Isaiah 24:4-5, 7-12
Amos 4:7-9

"Christians Groan Too"

Romans 8:23-25



Holy Spirit Groans Too!

Romans 8:26-27

- Helps Us Until We Are Glorified
- He Is The Promise of Eternal Glory