

“Stand Firm”

This set of questions is based on Patrick’s sermon from Mark 13:20–23 preached March 15.

1. Read Philippians 1:29–30. What do the following two phrases reveal about Paul’s attitude toward the suffering to which he refers: *“it has been granted to you”* and *“on behalf of Christ”*?

In what ways can suffering for Christ be a blessing?

2. “Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed” (1 Peter 3:13–14a). Do you think that Peter’s general rule applies to our society today: Doing good usually does not provoke others to respond to us in harmful ways?

How do you reconcile this with what Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 3:12?

3. Does God’s protection mean we will never suffer harm because of following Christ? Carefully read Luke 21:16–19, noting the apparent contradictions. If God’s protection does not mean we are saved from harm or loss, what *does* it mean?