



LIVING IN A WORLD OF CRITICS

ADOPTING A STRATEGY FROM ANOTHER WORLD

2 CORINTHIANS 10:1-6

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Compass Bible Church • March 21 & 22, 2026 • 2 Corinthians, week 42 • Msg. 26-10

1. Expect _____ (v.1b)

2 Cor. 10:1 I, Paul, myself entreat you, by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am humble when face to face with you, but bold toward you when I am away!— **2** I beg of you that when I am present I may not have to show boldness with such confidence as I count on showing against some who suspect us of walking according to the flesh. **3** For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. **4** For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. **5** We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, **6** being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete. (ESV)

2. Respond _____ (vv.1-4a)

3. Rely _____ (vv.4b-6)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **1 John 3:13** and **John 17:14**. If Scripture clearly tells us we will be opposed, why are we still surprised when it happens? What makes it hard for you to accept this as part of the Christian life?
2. Read **1 Peter 2:12**. When you are criticized, what tempts you to pull back from doing good? What would it look like to stay committed to a Christ-honoring mindset in that moment?
3. Read **1 Peter 2:21-23**. What stands out most to you about how Christ responded to criticism and mistreatment? How can his example shape the way you respond?
4. Read **1 Peter 4:12-14**. Have you ever experienced a sense of God's help or presence when you were criticized for your faith? What did that look like? How does it help you through the pain?
5. Read **Hebrews 4:12-13**. How does knowing that God sees everything and that his Word will expose every heart help you trust him to deal rightly with those who criticize you?

The following related sermons are also available for downloading or streaming on the Focal Point Website and App (FPR.org).

Msg. 20-05 – **Expecting Opposition**
Msg. 21-14 – **Motivated by the Martyrs**
Msg. 13-18 – **Jesus as Judge**
Msg. 20-44 – **The Fear of God & Our Suffering**
Msg. 15-03 – **When You've Been Rejected**
Msg. 13-38 – **When You're Ridiculed for Christ**
Msg. 14-35 – **When Following Christ is Painful**

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

March 22nd Josh 7-8 & Lk. 2:25-52
March 23rd Josh.9-10 & Lk.3
March 24th Josh.11-13 & Lk.4:1-32
March 25th Josh.14-15 & Lk.4:33-44
March 26th Josh.16-18 & Lk.5:1-16
March 27th Josh.19-20 & Lk.5:17-39
March 28th Josh.21-22 & Lk.6:1-26
March 29th Josh.23-24 & Lk.6:27-49

Here are some books that may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. **The Cost of Discipleship**. SCM Press Ltd., 1959.
Cochran, Gregory. **Christians in the Crosshairs: Persecution in the Bible and Around the World Today**. WBC, 2016.
Elliott, Elisabeth. **Through the Gates of Splendor**. Tyndale Momentum, 2002.
Foxy, John. **Foxy's Book of Martyrs**. The John C. Winston Co., 1926.
Hefley, James, and Marti Hefley. **By Their Blood: Christian Martyrs of the 20th Century**. Baker Books, 1996.
Newell, Marvin. **A Martyr's Grace: 21 Moody Bible Institute Alumni Who Gave Their Lives**. Moody Publishers, 2016.
Nyquist, Paul. **Prepare: Living Your Faith in an Increasingly Hostile Culture**. Moody Publishers, 2015.
Rose, Darlene Deibler. **Evidence Not Seen: A Woman's Miraculous Faith in the Jungles of WWII**. HarperCollins, 1990.
Ryle, J. C. **Five English Reformers**. Banner of Truth, 1960.
Shenton, Tim. **John Rogers—Sealed with Blood**. EP Books, 2003.
The Voice of the Martyrs. **Heroic Faith: How to Live a Life of Extreme Devotion**. Thomas Nelson, 2008.
Waters, Mark, ed. **The New Encyclopedia of Christian Martyrs**. Baker Books, 2001.
Welch, Edward T. **Running Scared: Fear, Worry, and the God of Rest**. New Growth Press, 2007.