2 Timothy 3:11-12 *(NLT) You know how much persecution and suffering I have endured. You know all about how I was persecuted in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra - but the Lord rescued me from all of it. [12] Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.*

2 Timothy 3:12 *(NIV) In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted...*

***Did I read that right? If I sincerely desire to live a godly life one that honors Jesus Christ in everyway I WILL be PERSECUTED? That is what the verse says. I know that Paul was talking to Timothy and that it was during the very early days of the church. But does that mean we can ignore the Truth of this verse? I love John Piper's comments on this verse: *"We have ...domesticated the concept of godliness into such inoffensive, middle-class morality and law-keeping that 2 Timothy 3:12 has become unintelligible to us." (pg. 346)*

So how should we respond? Seek to honestly honor God in all that we do. Ask for His help and power to live in a Christ honoring way no matter what the circumstances or consequences may be. Then we need to do step by step, day by day, week by week seeking to live in Obedience to God. This is what has been called a Long Obedience in the same direction, or Faithfulness.

PRAYER: Lord, I want to live a godly life and honor you. But I have to be honest I do not really look forward to suffering or persecution. Please give me the Grace to Live as You have called me to live.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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