

The Testimony of the Scoundrels

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. When God called prophets and good men to do His will, He warned them that scoundrels would testify against them.
 - 1. Isa. 6:9-11; Jer. 1:8-9, 17-19, 38:6; 1Kings 21:13-14
- B. Why is it that God sends Christians to proclaim the Gospel and then permits obstacles to be placed in the way?
 - 1. Why does it seem His children have many needs while unbelievers seem to have all they want?
 - 2. Why is the road to heaven paved with so much difficulty?

I. REASONING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

- A. Isa. 55:8-9; 2Cor 4:15-18
- B. To further the Gospel - Phil. 1:12-13
- C. To motivate other Christians - Phil. 1:14
- D. To prove the power is in the Gospel and not the preacher
 - 1. Rom. 1:16; 2Cor. 4:7, 12:7-10; 1Cor. 2:1-5
- E. To test His children, enabling them to prove the depths of their strength to themselves - Deut. 8:2; Psalm 7:9
- F. To train us - Acts 7:23; Ex. 2:15-17; Acts 7:30; Joshua 14:7-13
- G. To change our direction - Acts 13:46, 16:13-33
- H. To change our thinking - 2Kings 5:11, 15
- I. To move us to address sin in our lives - Joshua 7:5, 11, 20; Heb. 12:9-11

Conclusion:

- A. So what is the testimony of the scoundrels? What should we hear when they speak ill of Christians?
 - 1. Validation! - 1Peter 4:14
 - 2. Confirmation! - Matt. 5:11-12
 - 3. Affirmation! - 1Peter 3:16
- B. The world answers hardship with trite clichés.
 - 1. "Every cloud has a silver lining."
 - 2. "Obstacles are only opportunities in disguise."
 - 3. "When life hands you lemons, make lemonade."
- C. Christians answer obstacles with the wisdom of God - Lam. 3:21-33