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“If God answers our prayers the way we want, we celebrate His faithfulness and His love; but if He doesn’t, we not only wonder if He cares, we are also tempted to wonder if He is even there. In this way, prayer often amounts to shopping at the Trinitarian department store for things that you have told yourself you need with the hope that they will be free.” -Paul David Tripp

Fellow believers acting poorly- We must be true to our identity in Christ even when those around us (who often bear the name of Christ) may not be representing well.

- Paul reminds his son in the faith, Timothy, “Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.” -Paul (I Timothy 6:12)

Fear of men- (Jesus at the Festival of Tabernacles) “Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about Him. Some said, “He is a good man.” Others replied, “No, He deceives the people.” But no one would say anything publicly about Him for fear of the leaders.”
-John 7:13

Persecution “Then He called the crowd to Him along with His disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Me and for the gospel will save it.” -Jesus (Mark 8:34-35)

False teachers "...many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist." -John (2 John 7)

Points To Ponder As We Prepare To Part:

- In what areas of my life do I need to better model my confession that Jesus is the Lord of my life?

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