

# Vexing the Righteous

by Clement of Rome

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*Clement of Rome's sermon highlights the persecution of the righteous by the wicked and the importance of enduring such trials with faith in God's protection.*

**Scripture:** Psalm 119:105, Matthew 5:10, Romans 8:17, 2 Timothy 3:16, 1 Peter 4:14

**Topics:** "Persecution Of Saints", "Trust In God"

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## Description

Clement of Rome admonishes the brethren to focus on matters concerning salvation rather than engaging in unnecessary contention. He urges them to turn to the Scriptures, the true words of the Holy Spirit, which contain no unjust or counterfeit teachings. Clement highlights how the righteous throughout history were persecuted, imprisoned, stoned, and slain not by the holy, but by the wicked and envious. Despite their sufferings, the righteous endured gloriously, trusting in the Most High as their Defender and Protector, ultimately becoming heirs of glory and honor in God's eternal kingdom.

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## Transcript

Ye are fond of contention, brethren, and full of zeal about things which do not pertain to salvation. Look carefully into the Scriptures, which are the true utterances of the Holy Spirit. Observe that nothing of an unjust or counterfeit character is written in them.

There you will not find that the righteous were cast off by men who themselves were holy. The righteous were indeed persecuted, but only by the wicked. They were cast into prison, but only by the unholy; they were stoned, but only by transgressors; they were slain, but only by the accursed, and such as had conceived an unrighteous envy against them. Exposed to such sufferings, they endured them gloriously. For what shall we say, brethren? Was Daniel s cast into the den of lions by such as feared God? Were Ananias, and Azarias, and Mishael shut up in a furnace of fire by those who observed the great and glorious worship of the Most High? Far from us be such a thought! Who, then, were they that did such things?

The hateful, and those full of all wickedness, were roused to such a pitch of fury, that they inflicted torture on those who served God with a holy and blameless purpose [of heart], not knowing that the Most High is the Defender and Protector of all such as with a pure conscience venerate" His all-excellent name; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. But they who with confidence endured [these things] are now heirs of glory and honour, and have been exalted and made illustrious by God in their memorial for ever and ever. Amen.

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