Introduction: We may be tried before our friends, we may have to stand trial before our government, we will stand before the judgment seat of Christ. Let us look at some who have stood trial for being a Christian. What it means to be convicted of being a Christian? What it means to be convicted to be a Christian?

**I) Various Trials**

**A) Bible Trials**

1. and were tried after, **Acts 4.1-9, esp. verse** 9

2. before the Sanhedrin, **Acts 22.1** hear my defense;

3. Paul stood before , **Acts 24** for believing in the resurrection.

4. Paul stood before , **Acts 25**; then , **Acts 26.**

5. Paul stood before , **2 Timothy 4.16**; see this in the Philippian letter.

**B) Others who have stood trial for being a Christian**

1. First century Christians were burned at the stake, fed to lions, blood flooded the streets, etc.

2. John Huss was burned to death, 1411. Crime was to teach from the Bible and say that Jesus is the head of His church.

3. John Wickliffe was banished to prison and after his death his body was dug up and burned, 1300's.

4. Many of those who came to this country did so to escape religious persecution.

5. More recently a "Christian" in Iran was sentenced to death for converting from Islam to Christianity. Read story.

**C) Persecution has been and may be real again, Revelation 13.13-15.**

**II) What It Means To Be Convicted Of Being A Christian?**

**A) Is there enough evidence ( ) to prove you are a Christian**, **Matthew 7.21**

1. Paul spoke of his conversion, His knowledge of Jesus being the Son of God, the resurrection, and Jesus being at the right hand of God.

2. Do we follow Christ in such a way that people know we are a Christian?

**B) Be faithful unto , Revelation 2.10.**

**III) What it means to be convicted in being a Christian?**

**A) This is the conviction of following Christ.**

1. Paul was determined to not denounce Christ, **Philippians 1.20-21.**

2. He stood trial before Caesar and relied on God and Christ to help him, **2 Timothy 4.17-18.**

**B) Would we have the same conviction?**

1. To preach the whole Gospel of Christ?

2. This is part of taking up the cross, **Matthew 10.37-39.**

Conclusion: This is where faith becomes real and really important. We can serve God as long as it is convenient, easy, popular, fun, etc. But can we serve Him when there is a cost to it?