Introduction: I want us to think about the above question. It is important for we may face various trials in life. 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 in being a Christian?

**I) Various Trials**

**A) Bible Trials**

1. Peter and John were tried after preaching the Gospel of Christ and performing a miracle, **Acts 4.1-9, esp. verse** 9. It this day we are judged.

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

a. **v.4- 5** the high Priest bears me witness; as he spoke of his conversion.

b. The jury in **Acts 22.22.**

c. **verse 29** those who were about to examine him.

3. Paul stood before Felix, **Acts 24** for believing in the resurrection., **v. 25**

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

5. Paul stood before Caesar, **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.

The Council of Constance was convened in 1414, and he was summoned before it, to answer to the charges brought against him, having been promised the safe conduct, or passport of the Emperor Sigismond. But the Emperor proved false to his word, and the council was determined to condemn him. He was declared a heretic, given the opportunity to recant and sentenced to be burned at the stake. On the 6th day of July, 1415, he was led forth and burned at the stake.

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. Each country had its own religion and it was a crime to worship any other way.

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

a. What would you do?

b. Some said they would not renounce Christ, some said they hope they would do the right thing but one never knows until they have to make the choice. One spoke of having to leave a denomination and facing persecution to follow Him.

**C) Persecution has been and may be real again**

1. Christians throughout history have faced persecution over:

a. Affirming the scriptures to be the inspired word of God

b. Jesus is the only head of His church

c. Denying false doctrine

2. Christians have been persecuted for not bowing down to "other gods**", Revelation 13.13-15**. They were called atheist because they denied other gods.

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

**A) Is there enough evidence (external) to prove you are a Christian**

1. Some wear the name of Christ but are not following Him, **Matthew 7.21, Luke 6.46**

2. 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.

3. Do we follow Christ in such a way that people know we are a Christian. Our language, manner of dress, attendance, moral standards, etc.

4. Or would people be surprised to find out I am a Christian?

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

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

**A) This is the internal 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 endure suffering and ridicule for Christ. To preach the whole Gospel of Christ?

a. Condemn homosexuality, immorality

b. Preach that Jesus is **The** Son of God; He is the **only way to heaven**, **John 14.6.**

b. To disobey the government if necessary. Health Care law for instance.

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?