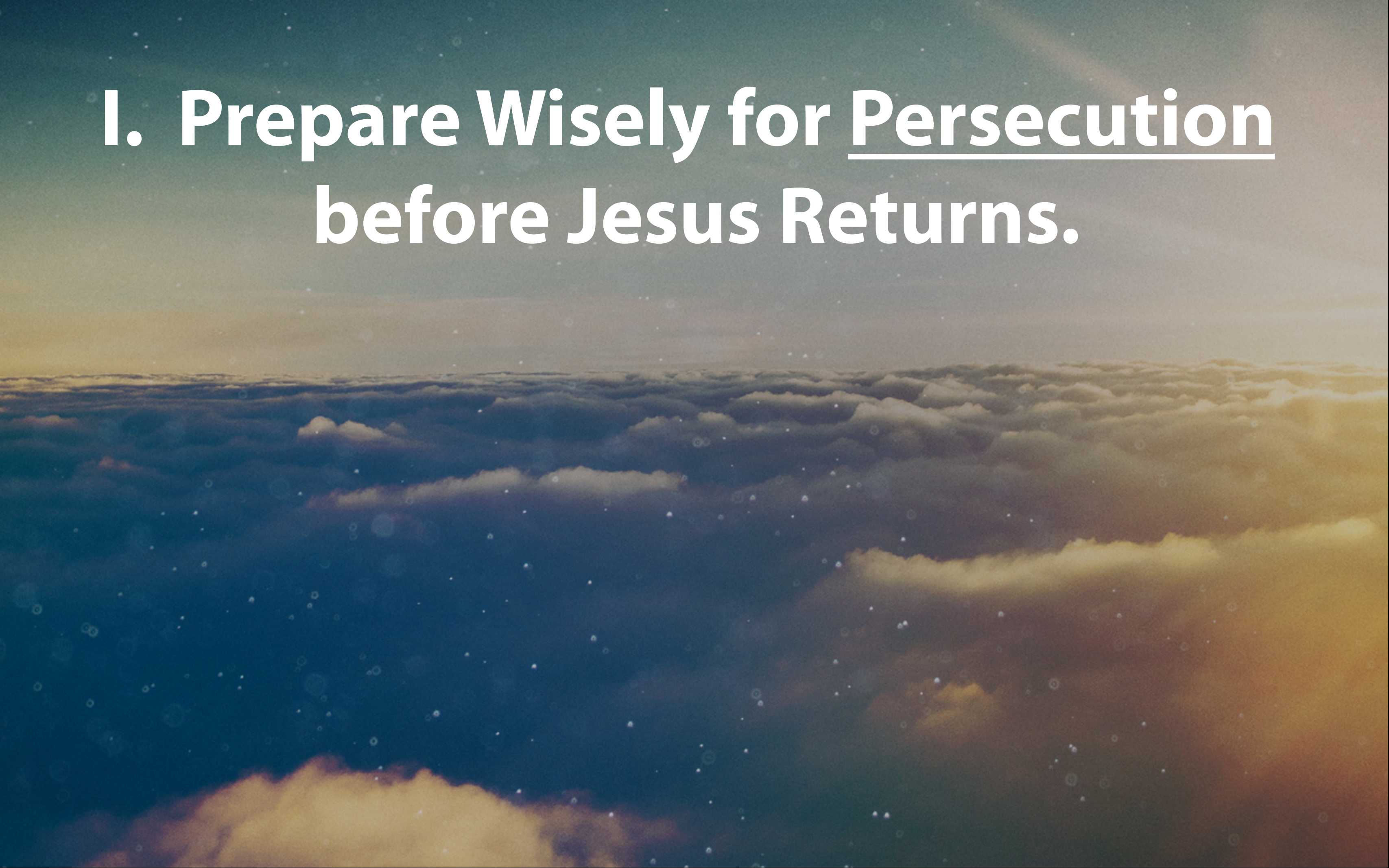




LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



**I. Prepare Wisely for Persecution  
before Jesus Returns.**

# 1 Thessalonians 2:2a (NLT)

**You know how badly we had been treated at Philippi just before we came to you and how much we suffered there.**

1 Thessalonians 2:2b (NLT)

**Yet our God gave us the courage to  
declare his Good News to you  
boldly, in spite of great opposition.**



LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —

**II. Prepare Wisely by Making  
Changes Now to Follow Jesus.**



**1 Thessalonians 2:11 (NLT)**

**And you know that we treated each of you as a father treats his own children.**

## 1 Thessalonians 2:12 (NLT)

**We pleaded with you, encouraged you, and urged you to live your lives in a way that God would consider worthy. For he called you to share in his kingdom and glory.**





LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —



**III. Prepare Wisely for Daily Warfare  
Against Your Enemies.**

**1 Thessalonians 2:18 (NLT)**

**We wanted very much to come to you, and I, Paul, tried again and again, but Satan prevented us.**

# 1 Thessalonians 2:19 (NLT)

**After all, what gives us hope and joy, and what will be our proud reward and crown as we stand before our Lord Jesus when he returns? It is you!**

# 1 Thessalonians 2:20 (NLT)

**Yes, you are our pride and joy.**



LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —

## Homework:

**How would you PREPARE WISELY if you knew persecution was coming and Jesus was returning within 10 years?**



LOOKING  
FORWARD

— TO THE RETURN OF CHRIST —