The Testimony of the Scoundrels
(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:
A. When God called prophets and good men to do His will, He warned them that scoundrels would testify against them
   1. Isa. 6:9-11; Jer. 1:8-9, 17-19, 38:6; 1Kings 21:13-14
B. Why is it that God sends Christians to proclaim the gospel and then permits obstacles to be placed in the way?
   1. Why does it seem His children have many needs while unbelievers seem to have all they want?
   2. Why is the road to heaven paved with so much difficulty?

I. REASONING FROM THE SCRIPTURES
A. Isa. 55:8-9; 2Cor 4:15-18
B. To further the Gospel - Phil. 1:12-13
C. To motivate other Christians - Phil. 1:14
D. To prove the power is in the Gospel and not the preacher
   1. Rom. 1:16; 2Cor. 4:7, 12:7-10; 1Cor. 2:1-5
E. To test His children, enabling them to prove the depths of their strength to themselves - Deut. 8:2; Psalm 7:9
F. To train us - Acts 7:23; Ex. 2:15-17; Acts 7:30; Joshua 14:7-13
G. To change our direction - Acts 13:46, 16:13-33
H. To change our thinking - 2Kings 5:11, 15
I. To move us to address sin in our lives - Joshua 7:5, 11, 20; Heb. 12:9-11

Conclusion:
A. So what is the testimony of the scoundrels? What should we hear when they speak ill of Christians?
   1. Validation! - 1Peter 4:14
   2. Confirmation! - Matt. 5:11-12
   3. Affirmation! - 1Peter 3:16
B. The world answers hardship with trite clichés
   1. “Every cloud has a silver lining.”
   2. “Obstacles are only opportunities in disguise.”
   3. “When life hands you lemons, make lemonade.”
C. Christians answer obstacles with the wisdom of God
   1. Lam. 3:21-33