

Witnesses for Christ

1 Peter 3:13-16

Julian Hardyman

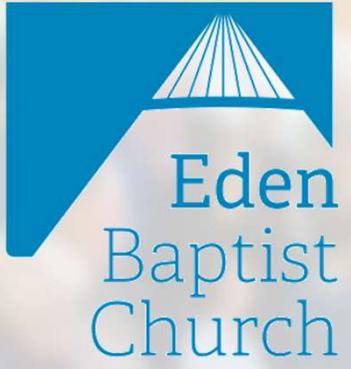
Slides and notes from the 10:00am online service

Sunday 23rd August 2020



1 Peter 3:13-16

¹³ Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. 'Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.' ¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.



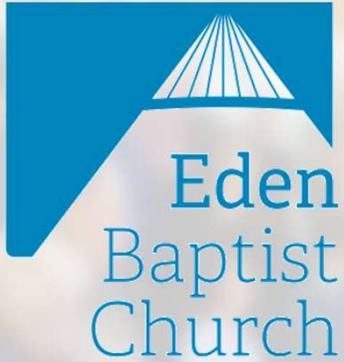
Billy Vunipola



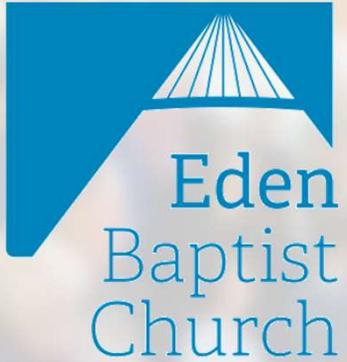




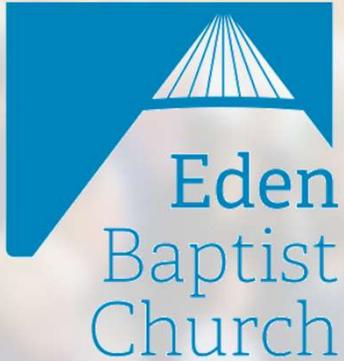
“I felt like, ‘Why am I getting punished?’ but it wasn't me being punished it was me being tested, to see if my faith was based on trophies I was winning or on actually if I believe in Jesus or not.”



“My faith gives me a gratitude that I don't have from anything else whether it's a nice car or a boot deal or a sponsor here or there, like with things like that, there was always more to achieve. Whereas when I really do believe in my faith in Jesus and the gospel I feel really content and really grateful for whatever situation I'm in.”

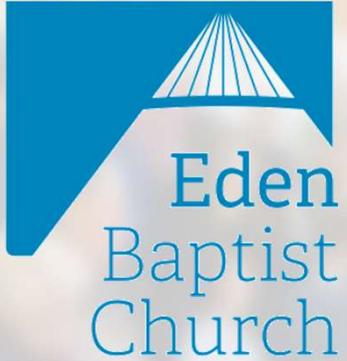


“I can't support that even though I am a person of colour, I'm still more a person of Jesus. I think that like I said the way Falou came out with it was very abrupt and direct and sometimes the gospel is direct but like you said we accept people for who they are and what they want to do with their own lives. It's not me to judge, it's for God. It's a long story but at the middle of it all is that to have forgiveness or to go to heaven or to not go to hell, the centre of it all is believing in Jesus Christ and that's what essentially I wanted to get across.”



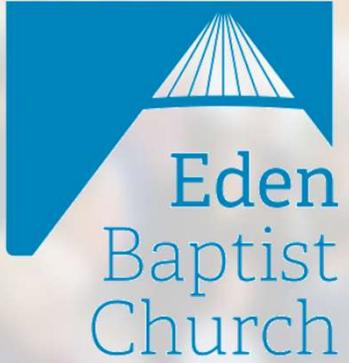
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Confidence Not Capitulation

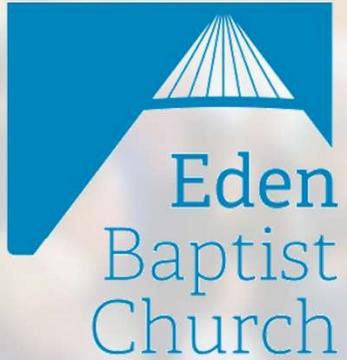
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Pause

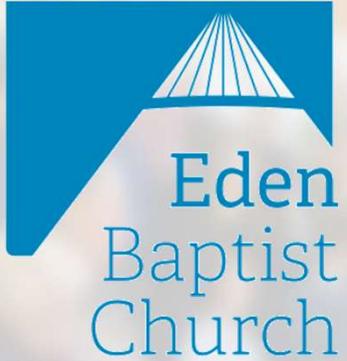
What are you afraid people will say or do if you stand up as a Christian?

How does Peter help us with those fears?



Reasons Not Reticence

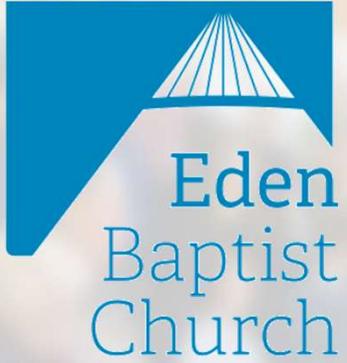
15^b Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.



Pause

Do you have several 'reasons' in your 'pocket' ready for different questions people may ask?

How could you improve them to make them more persuasive?



Respect Not Roughness

^{15c} But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.