

BOOK PROPOSAL

Suffering Unjustly

***Imprisonment, Wrecked Families, and Property or Wealth Destruction Affecting
Christians in Modern Democratic Societies***

A Biblical Theology of Unjust Suffering

by

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Christian Living / Theology / Prison Ministry
Approximately 55,000 words (60,000 with indices) | 216 pages
Complete manuscript available in English and Spanish

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Overview / One-Sentence Summary	3
2. Book Description	3
3. Target Audience	5
4. Comparable Titles	6
5. Unique Selling Proposition	7
6. Author Biography	8
7. Author Platform	9
8. Marketing Plan	10
9. Chapter-by-Chapter Outline	12
10. Sample Chapters	16

1. OVERVIEW

One-Sentence Summary

Written from a Chilean prison cell during the first year of a 5.42-year sentence for self-defense, Suffering Unjustly: Imprisonment, Wrecked Families, and Property or Wealth Destruction Affecting Christians in Modern Democratic Societies provides a comprehensive biblical theology and practical guide for Christians enduring wrongful persecution, imprisonment, or injustice through no fault of their own.

One-Paragraph Summary

Suffering Unjustly: Imprisonment, Wrecked Families, and Property or Wealth Destruction Affecting Christians in Modern Democratic Societies is a deeply personal yet universally applicable biblical guide for Christians enduring wrongful suffering. Grounded in 1 Peter 2:19-20—“For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully”—the book identifies four “mortal enemies” every suffering Christian must recognize (our sinful hearts, Satan and demons, the hostile world, and unjust state power), provides theological framework for understanding why God permits such suffering, and offers practical wisdom for maintaining faith, virtue, and even contentment in deplorable circumstances. The author wrote this book with pen and paper from prison, drawing from Scripture, Reformed theology, and his own experience preaching or lecturing 865 times to fellow inmates over five years, five months.

2. BOOK DESCRIPTION

The Problem

What happens when faithful Christians suffer despite doing good? This is not a theoretical question. According to Open Doors, an estimated 360 million Christians worldwide face high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith. In the United States, believers increasingly face religious liberty restrictions, cancel culture targeting Christian beliefs, and hostile legal systems. Many lack biblical resources to understand why God permits such suffering and how to respond with faith rather than bitterness.

Existing books on Christian suffering often focus on illness, grief, or general hardship. Few address the specific challenges of unjust persecution: false accusations, wrongful imprisonment, family destruction through corrupt courts, or economic ruin through targeted policies. Christians facing these trials need theological grounding and practical guidance written by someone who has actually endured such suffering.

The Solution

Suffering Unjustly fills this gap by providing a comprehensive biblical theology of unjust suffering written from lived experience. The author, Dr. John M. Cobin, wrote this book from a Chilean prison cell where he spent 5.42 years after defending himself against a violent mob during Chile’s 2019 “Social Upheaval.” Armed initially with only a Spanish New Testament, he searched Scripture for answers that would sustain not just himself, but every Christian facing undeserved suffering.

The book addresses essential questions:

- Who are my real enemies, and how do I fight them?
- Why does the world hate Christians?
- Can I trust the state's judicial system?
- Who ultimately controls my adversity—Satan, man, or God?
- Why doesn't God deliver me?
- Should Christians avoid suffering at all costs?
- How do I practice virtue in deplorable circumstances?
- What is the difference between belief in God's loving sovereignty and fatalism?
- How can my suffering become a testimony to others?

Structure

The book is organized into 14 chapters plus introduction, moving from diagnosis to theology to practical application:

Part I — Understanding Our Enemies (Chapters 1-4): Identifies the four forces arrayed against suffering Christians and how to recognize their tactics.

Part II — Theological Framework (Chapters 5-8): Examines God's sovereignty over adversity, why He permits suffering, and the spiritual condition of those who escape persecution.

Part III — Practical Response (Chapters 9-12): Provides guidance on self-examination, practicing virtue, understanding sovereignty versus fate, and using faithfulness as testimony.

Part IV — Ministry to Others (Chapters 13-14): Equips readers to minister to others who suffer unjustly and draws final conclusions.

3. TARGET AUDIENCE

Primary Audience

Christians currently experiencing persecution, imprisonment, false accusations, family court injustice, economic destruction, or other undeserved suffering. This includes:

- Believers imprisoned for their faith or for exercising rights criminalized by hostile governments
- Parents who have lost custody of children through corrupt family court systems lacking a Christian Worldview
- Professionals who have lost careers due to religious discrimination or cancel culture
- Christians facing legal persecution for exercising conscience rights
- Believers in countries with active persecution (China, North Korea, Iran, Nigeria, etc.)

Secondary Audience

Christians concerned about religious liberty and preparing spiritually for potential persecution:

- American Evangelicals watching religious liberty erosion with concern
- Church members seeking to understand biblical teaching on suffering
- Small group and Bible study participants studying persecution themes
- Christian school and homeschool families teaching children about faith under fire

Tertiary Audience

Ministry leaders and counselors serving suffering Christians:

- Pastors counseling congregants facing unjust circumstances
- Prison chaplains and jail ministry volunteers
- Persecution ministry organizations (Voice of the Martyrs, Open Doors, etc.)
- Christian counselors and biblical counseling programs

Market Size

The potential market is substantial:

- 360 million Christians facing persecution worldwide (Open Doors 2024)
- 90 million evangelical Christians in the United States
- Growing interest in religious liberty issues among American evangelicals
- 500+ million Spanish-speaking Christians (Spanish edition available)
- Prison ministry market: 2.3 million incarcerated in U.S. alone

4. COMPARABLE TITLES

Suffering Unjustly enters a proven market with enduring classics while offering a fresh, contemporary perspective:

Tortured for Christ by Richard Wurmbrand (1967)

This classic has sold over 3 million copies and remains in print after 55+ years. Wurmbrand's account of 14 years in Romanian Communist prisons established the persecution memoir genre. *Suffering Unjustly* updates this approach for contemporary readers while providing more systematic theological framework and practical application.

The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boom (1971)

Ten Boom's account of her family's imprisonment for hiding Jews has sold millions of copies and been adapted into film. Like ten Boom, Cobin writes from personal experience of unjust imprisonment. *Suffering Unjustly* provides the theological depth that complements such narrative accounts.

A Place of Healing by Joni Eareckson Tada (2010)

Tada's works on suffering have sold millions and established her as evangelicalism's leading voice on the topic. While Tada focuses primarily on physical suffering and disability, *Suffering Unjustly* addresses the distinct challenges of persecution, injustice, and wrongful imprisonment.

Total Truth by Nancy Pearcey (2004)

Pearcey's worldview analysis has influenced a generation of thinking Christians. *Suffering Unjustly* draws on Pearcey's worldview framework while applying it specifically to the experience of unjust suffering and the conflict between Christian and secular/Marxist approaches to justice.

When God Doesn't Fix It by Laura Story (2015)

Story's Grammy-winning song "Blessings" and accompanying book address unanswered prayer and ongoing suffering. *Suffering Unjustly* shares this theme of contentment amid unresolved circumstances while focusing specifically on injustice rather than illness or loss.

Market Differentiation

Suffering Unjustly occupies a unique niche: it combines the personal testimony of persecution memoirs with the theological rigor of systematic treatments. It specifically addresses governmental and judicial injustice—a topic increasingly relevant to Western Christians—while providing biblical framework for self-defense and resistance that most Christian books avoid.

5. UNIQUE SELLING PROPOSITION

Suffering Unjustly offers several distinctive features that differentiate it from existing books on Christian suffering:

1. Written from Prison

Unlike academic treatments of suffering, this book was written with pen and paper from a Chilean prison cell. The author spent 5.42 years imprisoned for self-defense against a violent mob. This lived experience gives the book authenticity and practical wisdom that theoretical approaches cannot match.

2. Addresses Governmental Injustice

Most Christian books on suffering focus on illness, grief, or general hardship. *Suffering Unjustly* specifically addresses persecution by state actors, corrupt judicial systems, and politically-motivated prosecution—issues increasingly relevant to Western Christians facing religious liberty challenges.

3. Biblical Framework for Self-Defense

The book provides careful biblical exegesis supporting the legitimacy of armed self-defense (Luke 22:35-38), a topic most Christian publishers avoid. This addresses a real need among believers who struggle to reconcile “turn the other cheek” with the duty to protect family and self.

4. Reformed Theological Foundation

Grounded in Reformed theology and the sovereignty of God, the book provides robust theological framework rather than mere emotional comfort. It engages seriously with questions of providence, divine permission of evil, and the purposes of suffering in God’s redemptive plan.

5. Bilingual Availability

Complete manuscripts exist in both English and Spanish, enabling simultaneous publication in both markets. The Spanish edition (PADECIENDO INJUSTAMENTE) reaches the 500+ million Spanish-speaking Christians worldwide, many in countries with active persecution.

6. Proven Prison Ministry Application

The author preached or lectured 865 times in Chilean prisons and saw 10-15 conversions through his ministry. The book’s content has been tested and refined through years of actual ministry to suffering inmates.

6. AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Dr. John M. Cobin has been a committed Christian for over 47 years. He holds a Ph.D. in Public Policy from George Mason University, a B.A. from California State University Long Beach, and completed an undergraduate degree in Religious Studies at Reformed Bible College, along with six correspondence (graduate) courses in Bible, church history, and ethics from Regent College. He has authored multiple books on public policy and biblical theology, including *Bible and Government: Public Policy from a Christian Perspective* and *Christian Theology of Public Policy: Highlighting the American Experience*. An initial draft of *Suffering Unjustly* was placed on Amazon in 2021 (English only), which contained many errors (what one might expect for a book written from jail) and lacked many clarification and enhanced introduction that the revised version provides.

Dr. Cobin served as pastor of a fledgling Reformed Baptist church in Viña del Mar (Reñaca), Chile for three years and currently serves as co-pastor of Bautistas Históricos, an online Reformed Baptist ministry reaching Spanish-speaking believers throughout Latin America (**bautistashistoricos.com**). He taught at many Chilean universities between 1996 and 2014, mainly Universidad Finis Terra, Universidad Austral, and Universidad Andrés Bello, along with a number of others part time and overseas stints. He taught in American universities and community colleges between 1986 and 1995 and again from 2001 to 2007 part time.

On November 10, 2019, during Chile's violent "Social Upheaval," That had started on October 18th, Dr. Cobin defended himself against a mob of rioters who attacked his vehicle while shouting "Kill him!" Assailant Sebastián Valdés Muñoz opened his driver's-side door to lynch him (according to court testimony). Though acting in self-defense with a legally registered firearm, he was prosecuted by hard-leftist prosecutor Paola Rojas Caro, along with Communist Party lawyers, and sentenced to over eleven years in prison. The Chilean Supreme Court later reduced charges, acknowledging the lack of murderous intent, but he still served 5.42 years in Chilean prisons.

During his imprisonment, Dr. Cobin:

- Preached and lectured 865 times to fellow inmates
- Led Bible studies resulting in 10-15 conversions
- Read through Scripture nearly twice and 204 additional books
- Wrote *Suffering Unjustly* and a five-book, 1.3-million-word memoir series; *Bearing the Cross*
- Fed 3-10 inmates breakfast and lunch daily (funded by supporters)
- Oversaw repair of three prison bathrooms (funded by Baptist churches)
- Taught himself Italian to B1-B2 level
- Played 3,761 games of chess, winning 91.4% and drawing 1.9%

Dr. Cobin was released on parole in January 2025 and continues his ministry, writing, and advocacy work from Viña del Mar, Chile, where he has also gained expertise as an AI "vibe" programmer. He is married to Pamela and has seven children and six grandchildren (with a seventh due in May 2026). He holds Chilean citizenship and Italian citizenship through his maternal grandfather, but renounced his American citizenship in 2015.

7. AUTHOR PLATFORM

Online Presence

- **PolicyOfLiberty.com:** Author's main website featuring resume, all publications, criminal case documentation, literary agent dossier, and ministry resources. Includes multilingual content in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, German, and French.
- **BautistasHistoricos.com:** Spanish-language Reformed Baptist ministry website with sermons, theological content, and Baptist history resources.
- **Literary Agents Dossier:** Comprehensive multilingual presentation for the *Bearing the Cross* memoir series with audio summaries in six languages.

Ministry Network

- Co-pastor of the Historic Baptists online ministry based in Reñaca/Casablanca, Chile
- Network of 149 unique financial supporters developed during imprisonment
- Connections with Reformed Baptist churches throughout Latin America
- Prison ministry contacts and ongoing outreach programs

Publishing History

Published works through Alertness Books (self-publishing imprint):

- *Bible and Government: Public Policy from a Christian Perspective*
- *Christian Theology of Public Policy: Highlighting the American Experience*
- Multiple articles and essays on economics, public policy, and theology
- *Bearing the Cross* (five-book memoir series, 1.3 million words, seeking traditional publication)

Academic & Professional Background

- Ph.D. in Public Policy, George Mason University, M.A.s in economics and business economics, undergraduate and graduate training in Religious Studies.
- University teaching experience
- Austrian school economist and libertarian public intellectual
- Entrepreneur, gold coin arbitrager, and builder
- Founder, Alertness AI Consulting Services

Media Potential

The author's story offers compelling media opportunities: an American pastor imprisoned in Chile for self-defense during violent riots, prosecuted by Communist Party lawyers, who maintained faith and ministry throughout 5.42 years of incarceration. This narrative appeals to religious liberty advocates, persecution-focused ministries, conservative media outlets, and Latin American Christian networks. He has already done many successful interviews on social media, especially Nicole Rodríguez's YouTube broadcast in October 15, 2025, which had over 13,579 views, nearly 1,700 "likes," and 414 written comments (99% positive and sympathetic).

8. MARKETING PLAN

Target Marketing Channels

Persecution Ministry Organizations

Organizations like Voice of the Martyrs, Open Doors, International Christian Concern, and Persecution Project Foundation serve millions of supporters interested in persecuted believers. The book's theme aligns perfectly with their missions, creating opportunities for endorsements, reviews, newsletter features, and resource listings.

Prison Ministry Networks

Prison Fellowship, Good News Jail & Prison Ministry, and countless local jail ministries serve millions of incarcerated individuals. The book provides both theological framework and practical encouragement for this audience.

Reformed/Calvinist Networks

The book's theological foundation in Reformed doctrine makes it attractive to Reformed Baptist, Presbyterian, and broader Calvinist audiences. Potential partnerships include Ligonier Ministries, Banner of Truth, Reformation Heritage Books, and Reformed seminary bookstores, along with NavPress and IVP.

Religious Liberty Organizations

Alliance Defending Freedom, First Liberty Institute, Becket Fund, and similar organizations have large supporter bases concerned about religious liberty. The book's themes of governmental overreach and unjust prosecution resonate with these audiences.

Conservative Christian Media

Podcasts, radio programs, and online platforms focusing on religious liberty, persecution, and cultural engagement provide interview and feature opportunities. The author's compelling story offers strong narrative content for media appearances.

Spanish-Language Marketing

The completed Spanish translation enables simultaneous marketing to Latin American and Hispanic U.S. audiences. Channels include Spanish-language Christian radio (present in every Latin American country), Hispanic evangelical denominations, and Spanish-language Christian publishers and distributors.

Author Participation

The author commits to active marketing participation:

- Podcast and radio interviews (fluent in English and Spanish)
- Church speaking engagements (Baptist and Reformed networks in Chile and internationally)
- Online content creation and promotion through existing websites
- Prison ministry speaking and resource distribution
- Conference and seminary speaking opportunities

9. CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER OUTLINE

Introduction (15 pages)

The author introduces himself and the circumstances that led to writing this book from a Chilean prison cell. He explains the foundational text (1 Peter 2:19-20) and establishes the book's purpose: providing biblical framework and practical wisdom for Christians suffering unjustly. The introduction includes details of his arrest, prosecution, and the corrupt judicial process, establishing credibility and context. It also notes spiritual "silver linings."

Chapter 1: Four Mortal Enemies of the Christian (8 pages)

Identifies the four enemies arrayed against suffering Christians: (1) our own sinful hearts (Jeremiah 17:9), (2) Satan and his demons engaging in spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:11-18), (3) the hostile world system, and (4) unjust state power. Includes biblical teaching on spiritual warfare and—controversially but biblically—Christ's command to bear arms for self-defense (Luke 22:35-38).

Chapter 2: Why Do People Hate Me? (12 pages)

Examines why the world hates Christians (John 15:18-19), tracing hostility from Cain's murder of Abel through contemporary persecution. Explores how the world's hatred stems from fundamental worldview conflict between Christian and secular/pagan values.

Chapter 3: The World Worsens But Christ's Kingdom Expands (13 pages)

Presents an amillennial eschatology showing how the world grows increasingly hostile while Christ's kingdom simultaneously expands. Provides historical perspective on Christian persecution and cultural decline while maintaining hope in God's sovereign plan.

Chapter 4: Is the State's Judicial Power a Christian's Friend or Ally? (13 pages)

Examines the biblical role of civil government (Romans 13) while acknowledging that governments often fail to fulfill this role justly. Discusses when state power becomes an instrument of persecution rather than justice, drawing on historical and contemporary examples.

Chapter 5: Who Ultimately Controls All Adversity? (10 pages)

Establishes God's sovereignty over all circumstances, including suffering and persecution. Examines how God uses even Satan's attacks and human wickedness for His purposes (Job, Joseph, Jesus). Provides theological foundation for trusting God amid injustice.

Chapter 6: Why Does God Not Deliver Me or Seem to Care? (9 pages)

Addresses the painful question of unanswered prayer for deliverance. Examines biblical examples where God delayed or withheld deliverance (Paul's thorn, martyrs of Hebrews 11). Explores purposes God accomplishes through ongoing suffering.

Chapter 7: Should Christians Avoid Suffering at All Cost? (10 pages)

Examines whether fleeing persecution is always appropriate. Distinguishes between prudent avoidance and faithless cowardice. Discusses when Christians should stand firm versus when strategic retreat serves the Gospel.

Chapter 8: Do Christians in Comfort Live in Sin? (10 pages)

Addresses the spiritual condition of Christians who escape persecution. Examines whether comfort indicates compromise or providential blessing. Warns against both judgmentalism toward comfortable Christians and complacency that avoids faithfulness.

Chapter 9: How and Why Did I Get into This Situation? (10 pages)

Guides readers through self-examination to identify any personal contribution to their circumstances. Distinguishes between legitimate self-reflection and false guilt. Helps readers discern whether suffering results from faithfulness, foolishness, or providential testing.

Chapter 10: Practicing Virtue in Bad Circumstances (12 pages)

Provides practical guidance for maintaining Christian character in deplorable conditions. Discusses specific virtues to cultivate (patience, contentment, forgiveness, hope) and vices to avoid (bitterness, revenge, self-pity, despair). Drawn from author's prison experience.

Chapter 11: Sovereignty, Not Fate (12 pages)

Distinguishes between biblical sovereignty and pagan fatalism. Explains how understanding God's sovereign purpose transforms suffering from meaningless tragedy to purposeful refinement. Addresses common objections and misunderstandings about providence.

Chapter 12: Our Faithfulness as Testimony (12 pages)

Shows how faithful endurance of suffering glorifies God and witnesses to others. Examines biblical examples (Daniel, Stephen, Paul) and historical martyrs. Encourages readers that their faithfulness matters even when unseen by human eyes.

Chapter 13: A Word to Those Who Know Sufferers (6 pages)

Equips readers to minister to others who suffer unjustly. Provides practical guidance on encouragement, practical support, what to say and not say, and how to maintain relationship with those facing long-term suffering.

Chapter 14: Concluding Remarks (4 pages)

Summarizes key themes and provides final encouragement. Points readers to ultimate hope in Christ's return and final justice. Closes with call to faithfulness regardless of circumstances.

10. SAMPLE CHAPTERS

The complete manuscript is available for review. Sample chapters (Introduction and Chapter 1) are included in the accompanying Pitch Package document. The full book can be downloaded at (password provided on request):

English: policyofliberty.com/su-books.php?get=en

Spanish: policyofliberty.com/su-books.php?get=es

Introduction Opening

This book is for Christians who are suffering wrongfully or unjustly even though they are “doing good” and attempting to abide by biblical principles: preaching the Gospel, loving God wholly, loving one’s neighbor as oneself, and being “valiant for the truth” (Jeremiah 9:3) or not selling it (Proverbs 23:23). It is not for professing Christians who have broken one of God’s laws and now suffer on account of it, e.g., rapists, murderers, thieves, etc.

I write from experience, having suffered greatly through others misusing state power against me, through false accusations and phony evidence in criminal court and family court... Even now, I am writing this book from prison in Chile, using pen and paper, and for a couple of months with only a Spanish New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs, until later on when my New King James Bible and complete concordance arrived.

Chapter 1 Opening

When something goes wrong in our lives, we often look to blame others or to consider some exogenous or external factor as being culpable. While such reasoning may have merit, the truth of the matter is that we should first look within ourselves. We are often our own worst enemies, and our sinful hearts lead us to do bad or inappropriate things at times, which leads to unpleasant consequences and suffering. The Bible says, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9).

CONCLUSION

Suffering Unjustly fills a significant gap in Christian publishing: a biblical theology of unjust suffering written from lived experience by a credentialed author with proven ministry impact. The book combines theological depth with practical wisdom, addresses contemporary concerns about religious liberty and governmental overreach, and reaches both English and Spanish markets simultaneously.

The author's compelling story—an American pastor imprisoned in Chile for self-defense, prosecuted by Communist Party lawyers, who maintained faith and productive ministry throughout 5.42 years of incarceration—provides strong narrative content for marketing and media engagement.

I would be honored to send the complete manuscript, additional sample chapters, or any other materials you require. Thank you for considering this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. John M. Cobin, Ph.D.

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