

Persecution Matthew 5:10-12

Matthew 10:22—<sup>22</sup> And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

Illustration: Adrian Rogers said, "The lack of persecution is not an indicator of a good job; it indicates ineffectiveness and a lack of love for Jesus."

## I. The Reasons for persecution

### 1. The word persecution means to Pursue.

1 Peter 4:14—<sup>14</sup> If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

A. Satan is in pursuit of those who follow Christ.

B. Jesus was persecuted because of who he was and for what he stood for.

John 15:18-20—<sup>18</sup> If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup> If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. <sup>20</sup> Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

### 2. Persecution is not Punishment.

A. God is not punishing us when we are going through persecution.

B. Persecution should be looked at as a badge of honor.

C. Jesus endured great persecution.

D. As Christians, we should look forward to being persecuted.

1 Peter 4:15-16—<sup>15</sup> But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. <sup>16</sup> Yet if

any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

E. It shows that we are living more like Christ.

Illustration: Adrian Rodgers said "Persecution is the thermometer of how much you love Jesus."

3. We are persecuted for:

A. We are persecuted for The Life We Live.

1. If we live godly lives we will be persecuted.

2 Timothy 3:12—<sup>12</sup> Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

3. When you live a godly life the world will:

a. Try to get you to act like them.

b. Try to get you to live like them.

c. Try to get you to talk like them.

4. Christians are to live different.

a. We are to be set apart from sin.

1 Peter 2:9—<sup>9</sup> But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

b. Our life is to be the real evidence of Jesus.

c. Our life should prove that Jesus really is alive and changing lives.

d. Righteousness in Christ is the root cause of Biblical persecution.

e. Persecution by the world is the real evidence that we are living a godly life in Christ.

f. If our life is free of persecution we are not living as God needs us to live.

B. We are persecuted for the Lord We Love.

John 15:20—<sup>20</sup> Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

1. The World hates Jesus.
2. Because of their hate for Him they will hate us too.
3. The World hates Him because He exposes their sin.
4. It convicts them for the wickedness they are doing.

John 7:7—<sup>7</sup> The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.

## II. The Result of Persecution. (vs. 11)

### 1. The Personal Insult.

#### A. “When men shall revile you.”

1. To revile someone is to mock them and ridicule them.
  - a. This is probably the most common form of persecution in America today.
  - b. We are made fun of because we are Christians.

### 2. The Physical Abuse.

#### A. “and persecute you.”

1. They will try to do harm to those who stand for Christ and what is right and wrong.
2. The word persecution here means to buffet and batter.
3. It is actual physical abuse.
  - a. Jesus died on Calvary’s Cross due to persecution.
  - b. All of the apostles died martyr’s deaths through persecution.
  - c. Today Christians are being killed for their faith.

Illustration: Every 5 minutes a Christian dies because of persecution. 100,000 Christian die each year for the Christian faith (Fox News and The Vatican).

### 3. The Public Accusations.

A. “and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.”

1. They will say all manner of accusations against you.
2. They lied and made up accusations against Jesus.
3. We should expect the same.

C. Your Response to Persecution.

1. Rejoice in the Lord.

A. “Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven.”

1. We should rejoice and be happy to be persecuted for Christ.
2. In Acts 5, Peter and the other apostles were cast into prison by the religious leaders, an angel delivered them and they went out and preached Jesus again.
3. Then they were again brought before the religious council, they were beaten and commanded not to preach in the name of Jesus anymore.

Acts 5:40-42—<sup>40</sup> And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. <sup>41</sup> And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. <sup>42</sup> And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

2. Respond In Love

Matthew 5:43-45—<sup>43</sup> Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. <sup>44</sup> But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; <sup>45</sup> That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

- a. When others hurt us we must respond in love to them.
- b. Jesus loved them even to death.

c. In His death His love provided salvation.

3. Pray for those who persecute you.

Matthew 5:44—<sup>44</sup> But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.

A. Pray for God to save and change them.

III. The Rewards for Enduring Persecution.

1. The Provision Promised. (Matt 5.10)

A. The kingdom of heaven is yours.

B. We have a home waiting for us.