

“HOW TO EXPERIENCE GOD’S BLESSING IN YOUR LIFE”

Matt. 5:10 – 12 – “Blessed are the persecuted”

“I will stay true to God – regardless.”

“Be the person vv. 3-9 describe and the world will give you the persecution of vv.10-12.”

II Tim. 3:12 - “all who live godly will suffer persecution.”

Persecution is simply the clash between 2 irreconcilable value-systems.

John 3:19-20 - ¹⁹This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed”

I. PERSECUTION IS A _____ (II Tim. 3:12)

Jesus mentions 3 forms persecution takes: (v. 11)

1. _____ insult. Verbal abuse
2. _____ attack.
3. _____ accusation.

II. THE _____ FOR PERSECUTION – v. 10, 11

Because of righteousness; falsely based; “because of Me” for Christ’s sake- unwavering loyalty. It has to be for righteousness’sake – not your personality or tactlessness

John 15:18-22

III. _____ TO PERSECUTION

1. "Rejoice" is what a person does when he hears good news.
2. "Be exceeding glad" means to be "overjoyed, to skip and jump with excitement."

Why would anyone celebrate when they face slander, false accusation, or physical attack? Jesus gives two reasons

1. "Great is your _____ in heaven."

Heb. 12:2 says of Jesus, "For the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

2. "For so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." Heb.11:36-38

What does persecution do for a believer?

1. Persecution confirms our relationship
2. Persecution leads us to _____ God - II Corinthians 12:10
3. Persecution leads to being strengthened (assuming we respond as Christ tells us to) 1 Peter 5:10 – “after you have suffered a while, (God) Himself will...make you strong, firm, and steadfast.”
4. Persecution brings blessing – “reward in Heaven”, but also “the Kingdom of Heaven” - Rom. 14:17 – “... righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

CONCL. Keep your eyes on the prize!

Stay positive when you are persecuted

Be prepared for it to come

Keep doing _____

Forgive those who hurt you

Keep _____ God

Pray for understanding and strength

God will have the last word and it will be _____!

