

A Study on Persecution

By Kerry Trahan

July 29, 2018

As taught at Calvary Church of Port Orchard

- ❖ 2Ti 3:12-13 Yea... all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. ¹³But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

Persecution for Christ's Sake Comes w Some Very Peculiar Promises:

- ❖ Mat 5:10-11 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
- ❖ Luk 6:22, 24-26 Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. ... ²⁴But woe unto you that are rich! for ye have received your consolation. ²⁵Woe unto you that are full! for ye shall hunger. Woe unto you that laugh now! for ye shall mourn and weep. ²⁶Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

Reasons Why Christians Who Live Godly Lives are Persecuted:

Good Does not mix with evil

Truth Does not mix with Lies

The Wicked Hate Christ

The Context of Each Indicates that JOY is the Proper Reaction:

- ❖ Mat 5:12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.
- ❖ Luk 6:23 Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven...

This Odd Mixture is found Throughout the Scripture:

- ❖ 1Th 1:6 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost.
- ❖ Joh 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.
- ❖ Rom 5:3 We glory in tribulations...
- ❖ Jam 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;
- ❖ Act 5:41 And they departed from the presence of the council, REJOICING that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.

Why Joy? What's the Blessing of Being Persecuted?

1. Works Character in our Lives

- ❖ Jam 1:3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh PATIENCE.
- ❖ Rom 5:3-5 We glory in tribulations... knowing that tribulation worketh PATIENCE; ⁴And patience, EXPERIENCE; and experience, HOPE: ⁵And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

2. Proves We Possess What We Profess

- ❖ 2Th 1:4-5 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure: ⁵Which is A MANIFEST TOKEN = [evidence, proof] of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:

3. Prompts us to Rely Upon His Strength Rather than our Own

- ❖ 2Co 12:10 I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

4. Is There Not A Cause?

- ❖ 1Sa 17:26-29 And David spake to the men that stood by him, ... who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?... ²⁹...Is there not a cause?

5. A Testimony to Others

- ❖ 2Ti 2:9-10 Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound. ¹⁰Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

6. Puts Us Among Good Company

- ❖ Act 7:52 Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:
- ❖ 2Th 1:6-10 Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; ⁷And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, ⁸In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: ⁹Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; ¹⁰When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.
- ❖ Heb 11:36-40 And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: ³⁷They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; ³⁸(Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. ³⁹And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: ⁴⁰God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

7. To Know Jesus in Fellowship

- ❖ Phi 3:10 That I may know him... and the fellowship of his sufferings...

8. To Know the Power of His Resurrection

- ❖ Phi 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection... being made conformable unto his death;
- ❖ 2Co 4:10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.
- ❖ 2Ti 2:8-9, 11 Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel: ⁹Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound. ... ¹¹It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:

9. We Shall One Day Reign With Him

- ❖ 2Ti 2:12 If we suffer [with Him], we shall also reign with him:...

10. It's Only For a Short Season

- ❖ Jam 4:14 What is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.
- ❖ Joh 16:16-24 A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father... ¹⁹Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask him, and said unto them, Do ye enquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me? ²⁰Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. ²¹A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world. ²²And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you. ²³... Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. ²⁴...ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

11. Rest is On Its Way

- ❖ Heb 4:9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.
- ❖ 2Th 1:7 And to you who are troubled [God shall recompense] rest... when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

Only By the Above can we Do the Following:

- ❖ Heb 12:1-4 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, ²Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. ⁴Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.
- ❖ 1Pe 4:12-14 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: ¹³But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. ¹⁴If 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.
- ❖ Rom 8:16-19 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: ¹⁷And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. ¹⁸For I reckon that the sufferings of this

present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. ¹⁹For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

- ❖ Act 5:40-42 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. ⁴¹And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. ⁴²And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

Now We May Better Understand Why Jesus Tells Us To...

- ❖ Luk 6:28 Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.