

## Persecution

July 20, 2003

### PERSECUTION DEFINED

*Webster's 1828 Dictionary:*

The act or practice of persecuting; the infliction of pain, punishment or death upon others unjustly, particularly for adhering to a religious creed or mode of worship, either by way of penalty or for compelling them to renounce their principles.

### PERSECUTION IS A PART OF GODLY LIVING

2 Timothy 3:12

Yea, and **all that will live godly** in Christ Jesus shall **suffer persecution** .

#### Why?

2 Timothy 3:1-3,13

1 This know also, that **in the last days perilous times shall come.**

2 For [saved] men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, **despisers of those that are good,**

13 But **evil men and seducers shall wax** [grow] **worse and worse**, deceiving, and being deceived.

## TO LIVE GODLY

Titus 2:11-13

11 For **the grace of God** that bringeth **salvation** [deliverance] hath appeared to all men, 12 **Teaching us** [*paideuo* ? persistently training toward qualification or fitness] that, **denying ungodliness** and worldly lusts, **we should live** soberly, righteously, and **godly**, in this present world; 13 **Looking for** [waiting with expectation] **that blessed hope** [a life of ruling in the kingdom during the age to come, Titus 1:2, 3:7], and **the glorious appearing** of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

### The godly are set apart

Psalms 4:3

But know that **the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself**: the LORD will hear when I call unto him.

#### How?

John 17:17

Sanctify [set apart as clean unto the Lord] them **through thy truth**: thy word is truth.

### THINK IT NOT STRANGE

1 Peter 4:12

Beloved [?as obedient children?obeying the truth?, 1Pt.1:14,22], **think it not strange** concerning **the fiery trial** [by persecution] which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

### The first PERSECUTION: cain killed abel his brother

Genesis 4:8

And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that **Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.**

## Why?

1 John 3:12-13

12 Not as Cain, *who* was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because **his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.** 13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

## FAMILY PERSECUTION

Matthew 10:36

And **a man's foes**[or enemies, NJV] *shall bethey* of **his own household.**

## Jesus Christ was persecuted BY HIS OWN

John 5:16

And therefore did **the Jews persecute Jesus**, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day.

## Why?

John 8:40

But now **ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth**, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.

## Jewish leaders sought honor from man

John 5:44

How can ye believe, which **receive honour one of another**, and **seek not the honour** that cometh from **God only?**

## Jesus did not receive honor from men

John 5:41 I receive not honour from men.

## Jesus honored his father

John 8:49

Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but **I honour my Father**, and ye do dishonour me.

## leaders THAT COMPROMISE

John 12:42-44

"Nevertheless even among **the chief rulers**[the religious leaders or teachers of the people] **many believed** in Him [Jesus Christ], but because of the Pharisees they **did not confess Him**, **lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise** [ or honor]of men more than the praise [or honor] of God."

## THEY PERSECUTE THE GODLY

Acts 4:18-20

" Then **they**[?rulers of the people and elders of Israel,? v.8] ... **commanded them not to speak or teach** at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, ?Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you ather than God. **For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.?**

Acts 5:28,40

28 Saying, Did not we [the religious leaders and teachers

] straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine? 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.

## **YOU CANNOT TEACH US**

Acts 4:13

Now when they [the Jewish religious leaders and teachers] saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that **they were unlearned and ignorant men**

, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

## **GOD HAS CHOSEN THE FOOLISH THINGS**

1 Corinthians 1:27-28

27 But **God hath chosen the foolish things** of the world to confound the wise; and **God hath chosen the weak things** of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28 And **base things of the world**, and

**things which are despised, hath God chosen**, *yea*, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

## **The chosen are persecuted**

John 15:18-21

18 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before *it hated*

you. 19 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 [Israel], therefore **the world hateth you**

. 20 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. 21 But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.

## **THE CHOSEN SHALL REIGN WITH HIM**

Revelation 17:14

These [the fallen earthly kings and lords of this present age] shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for **he is Lord of lords, and King of kings**: and **they that are with him**

[when He returns to this earth to reign for 1,000 years in His kingdom] are called, and **chosen**, and faithful.

## **PERSECUTION IS A BLESSING**

Matthew 5:10-12

10 **Blessed are they** which are **persecuted**

for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven [the millennium].

11 **Blessed are ye**, when *men* shall revile you, and **persecute you**

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

12 **Rejoice**, and be exceeding glad: for **great is your reward** in heaven: for so **persecuted**

they the prophets which were before you.

## **in the world to come life for the age**

Mark 10:30

But **he** [that has left all and have followed Jesus,? v.28] **shall receive** an hundredfold **now in this time**

, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, **with persecutions**; and

**in the world to come eternal life** [or ?have treasures in heaven? entering into the kingdom of God,? v.21,23].

*"eternal life" = aionios zoe in the Greek language which is singular in number. It is better translated "age-lasting life" or "life in the age to come."*

This is not eternity but this is the next age, the kingdom age, that lasts for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:4).

## how to answer your persecutors

*Endure it*

1 Corinthians 4:12

And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; **being persecuted, we suffer it:**

*don't sin, guard your mouth, & trust god*

1 Peter 2:22-23

22 Who [Jesus] **did no sin**, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23 Who, when **he was reviled, reviled not again**; when he suffered, he threatened not; but **committed himself to him**[the Father] that judgeth righteously:

*LOVE, BLESS, DO GOOD, & PRAY*

Matthew 5:44-48

44 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;

45 **That ye may be the children [sons] 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.

***DON'T BE ASHAMED OF CHRIST AND HIS WORDS***

Mark 8:38

Jesus said, Whosoever therefore shall be **ashamed of me and of my words**

in this adulterous and sinful generation [by escaping persecution]; **of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed**, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels [during the millennial kingdom reign].

### Persecution can offend you

Mark 4:16

16 ?? when they have heard **the word**

[?the mystery of the kingdom of God,? 4:11], immediately receive it with gladness; 17 And have no root in them selves, and so **endure but for a time**: afterward, when affliction or **persecution ariseth for the word's sake**, immediately **they are offended**.

### PERSECUTION IS A TOKEN OF GOOD FROM GOD

2 Thessalonians 1:4-5

4 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**: 5 Which [persecutions & tribulations] is **a manifest token**

[a sign, visible evidence, or a stamp of approval] of the righteous judgment of God,

**that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God**

[ the inheritance in the coming millennial age, to rule and reign with Christ in honor and glory, (Acts 14:22)], for which ye also suffer: