

Outline – November 1, 2020
Matthew 5:10-12; Mark 13:11-13
Dealing With Persecution
Acts 5:38-42

Persecution Is A Reality For The Follower Of Jesus

- I. Persecution is promised to the follower of Jesus**
 - A. 2 Timothy 3:12 (no follower is exempt)
 - B. The born again, Bible-believing Christian is the most persecuted person on the planet
 1. Thousands are killed every year worldwide
 2. Thousands are imprisoned every year
 3. Many lose their job, contract
 4. Many are not promoted
 5. Many are mocked, divided, treated with contempt
 6. Civil rights are denied, violated
 7. Seen as the enemy from many groups

- II. What is the difference between punishment, pushback and persecution?**
 - A. Punishment comes from the good, the authority, when we do evil
 - B. Pushback comes from a person's ego, pride, arrogance and overreach
 - C. Persecution comes from those who are opposed to us, when we fulfill our calling to follow Jesus
 - D. Persecution is often a thermometer of our devotion to following Jesus
 - E. Joy is the thermostat of life in persecution

- III. How to deal with persecution**
 - A. Expect it (Why)
 1. The lifestyle we seek (brings it)
 - a. Our goals
 - b. Our worldviews
 - c. Our values
 - d. We are to be salt and light, twice born on a different path
 - e. We proclaim Jesus
 - f. We promote the Word
 - g. We protect the community of faith
 2. The lies that will be said
 - a. Jesus said "They will say all manner of evil against you falsely"
 - b. People lied about Jesus. They will lie about you (seeds of doubt and division)
 3. The Lord that we serve
 - a. If you serve Him
 - b. If you worship Him
 - c. If you stand for Him you will be persecuted

- B. Endure it
 - 1. How it comes to us
 - a. Insults
 - b. Intimidation
 - c. Injustice - bias, prejudice, hearsay, not allowed for defense or cross examination
 - 2. From whom it comes
 - a. Secular world
 - b. Political world
 - c. Religious world (excludes Jesus)
 - d. Family circles
- C. Embrace it
 - 1. Rejoice for great is your reward
 - 2. Rejoice in life (blessing) - 3 styles
 - a. The hellish life = opposed to Bible
 - b. The human-only life = no Biblical counsel
 - c. The heavenly life = following Jesus plan
 - d. Pray, forgive, invite
 - 3. Rejoice in love
 - 4. Rejoice in the Lord
 - 5. Results are His (Story of Stephen)

**Persecution Comes, But So Comes
Blessing, Strength and Joy**