

**“Persecution Prep 101”**

A Study Of Acts - Part 2

INTRO: To be witnesses to the uttermost will of necessity run us afoul of the satanic forces, society, and our own sin nature. Persecution will naturally arise to mute our testimony. Yet, like Paul we can stand in the midst of the persecution, and actually see God use that persecution to further our witness.

**\*\*PERSECUTION INTRODUCTION**

1. The Present State Of Persecution
2. The Promise Of Persecution
3. The Pathway Of Persecution
4. The Perils Of Persecution
  - (1) Keep Sinners From Salvation - Mt. 13:21
  - (2) Keep Saints From Service - 2 Tm. 1:7
5. The Plan For Persecution
  - (1) Show Christ - Lk. 21:12-15; Acts 8:14/11:19; 2 Co. 4:8-14
  - (2) Self Examine - 2 Co. 13:5
  - (3) Study - 2 Tm. 2:15; 3:12-17; Ep. 6:14
  - (4) Supplicate - Mt. 5:43-45; Ep. 6:18
  - (5) Stay Close - Acts 6:5; 6:8 - 7:60
  - (6) Seek Holiness - Lk. 6:22; 21:10-19; 1 Pt. 2:11-23; 4:15
  - (7) Stand - Acts 20:24; Ep. 6:13; 1 Pt. 4:15-19
  - (8) Serve - Ro. 12:14, 20-21; Mt. 5:43-45; 1 Pt. 2:23; 3:9; 1 Th. 5:15
  - (9) See Divinely - 1 Th. 3:3; 1 Pt. 2:21
  - (10) Savor - Mt. 5:10-12; Lk. 6:22; Acts 5:41; 13:52; 1 Pt. 4:14
6. The Profit Of Persecution
  - (1) It Purified The Church
  - (2) It Proved The Church
  - (3) It Preserved The Church
  - (4) It Promoted The Church
  - (5) It Prospered The Church

CONCL: Paul gives us, perhaps, our most complete primer on handling the perils of persecution. He did so with grace and determination, and as such was a powerful witness in the midst of the trials. So can we! Let us study carefully Persecution Prep 101, the Apostolic course on Oppression Outreach!

**“Hope For The Hurting”**

A Study Of 1 Peter

INTRO: Everywhere you look today you see people hurting. It is a part of our lives. Sometimes the hurt can lead to such despair. But it does not have to do so. Our heavenly Father, through his servant Peter, has given us all the coping devices one could ever need, not to mention many, many good reasons to rejoice instead!

I. THERE IS HOPE IN OUR SALVATION - 1 Peter 1:1-25

II. THERE IS HOPE IN OUR STANDING - 1 Peter 2:1-10

III. THERE IS HOPE IN OUR SUBMISSION - 1 Peter 2:11 - 3:12

1. Submission To The Spirit 2:11-12
2. Submission To The State 2:13-17
3. Submission To The Superiors 2:18-25
4. Submission To The Spouse - 3:1-7
  - (1) The Submission Of The Lady Of The Manor 3:1-6

1a. Her Difficulty

2a. Her Directives

1b. For Her Talk

2b. For Her Walk

3a. Her Discovery

1b. It Is Priceless

2b. It Is Proven

(2) The Submission Of The Lord Of The Manor 3:7

1a. His Responsibilities

1b. Regarding Knowing

2b. Regarding Bestowing

2a. His Results

CONCL: Dr. R. L. Matthews said it well, “If we knew better the character of God, we would not need the promises of God.” We have a Father we can trust, *no matter what we face in life!*