

"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

(1) What It Is

(2) Why It Is

2. The Promise Of Persecution

(1) By Jesus - Mt. 5:10-12; 10:16-25; John 15:18-20

(2) By Peter - 1 Pt. 4:12-13

(3) By Paul - 2 Tm. 3:10-13

3. The Pathway Of Persecution - Acts 20:29-30

(1) The Wolves Without - v. 29

1a. The Damned - He. 11:32-37; Acts 12:1-11; 16:19-40

2a. The Dutiful - Mt. 23:31-35; Jn. 16:1-4; Acts 4, 5, 7, 8:1-4
Acts 14:5, 19;

1b. Through Paul - Ga. 1:13; 1 Co. 15:9

2b. To Paul - 1 Th. 2:14-16

(2) The Wicked Within

1a. The Religious - v. 30a; 1 Jn. 2:18-29; 4:1-3

2a. The Rebellious - v. 30b; 1 Co. 3:1-4; 11:17-19;
2 Co. 11:1-4; Ga. 5:1-9

(3) The Wrath - Dt. 30:1-7; Ps. 7:1-6; 1 Pt. 4:14-15

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

(1) By Abstention

(2) For Attention

2. Submission To The State 2:13-17

(1) The Realm Of Such Submission

1a. Every Rule

2a. Every Ruler

(2) The Reasons For Such Submission

1a. The Pleasure Of The Lord

2a. The Plan Of The Lord

(3) The Responsibilities Of Such Submission

1a. In Principle

2a. In Practice

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!*