Course #9:

Persecution

Written By Mark Tolson with Project China

**Name:** Persecution Course

**Hours:** This course will be studied over 24 hours of class time.

**Description:** This class is designed to awaken the student to the overlooked doctrine of persecution. We will examine the teachings on persecution and learn how it plays a part in our lives and ministry to take the gospel to the world.

**Textbooks:** The Life of Richard Wurmbrand

**Requirements: •** Each Student is required to read each textbook in full.

**•** Each student must attend ALL classes.

**•** Each student must memorize the memorization verses.

**•** Students will take quizzes on material from lecture and notes during the class period.

**•** Each student will be required keep a notebook of everything given out in class and all in class notes and show it to the instructor on the last day of class.

Course Outline:

Day 1- Persecution in the Old Testament

The goal of this day is to:

-Understand that persecution for righteousness is nothing new. It is the oldest result of choosing to follow God in a wicked world.

-Learn the habits and victories of the Old Testament saints as they are our examples.

Day 2- Persecution in the Book of Acts

The goal of this day is to:

-See how persecution was a constant part of the growth of the church in the first century.

-Take note of how God used persecution for his purposes to both grow the church and strengthen the Christians

-Understand how the apostles dealt with persecution in order to imitate it

Day 3 and 4- The Doctrine of Persecution

The goal of this day is to:

-Get a complete biblical view of persecution of righteousness from the Old Testament and the New Testament.

-To hold fast to what Jesus our Savior said about persecution.

-To allow the Holy Spirit to grow stronger in us through persecution.

Day 1

Persecution in the Old Testament

**LAYING A FOUNDATION**

Genesis is the first book of the Bible and in the first verse of that book we are introduced to the Creator God. He creates man and woman. He creates man in his image (Genesis 1-2). They had the free choice to obey the Creator God or to disobey him. As the scriptures reveal, man chose to disobey his Creator and becoming a sinful being. God then reveals that the seed of the woman will overcome the see of the snake. We know this is reference to Jesus overcoming the devil (Hebrews 2:14). God shows His grace by making coats of skins to clothe them. Also, God kept man from becoming a forever sinful being by sending him out of the Garden so he can’t eat of the tree of life (Genesis 3). This sets the stage for all that will happen from now on.

Mankind is living in a fallen world. Men and Woman have the free choice to obey or disobey God. Mankind will one day die physically and is already dead spiritually. Mankind is sinful. Some will choose to obey God and others will choose to disobey him.

This creates two families, the family of God and the family of Satan. The family of God will do the works of God. The family of Satan will do the works of Satan. Satan is at enmity with God. Satan and those in his family will persecuted those who are in the family of God, even God himself (John 8:39-45). Satan and his family will persecuted and even kill the family of God but they will not prevail (1 John 3:8).

Building upon this foundation we can start to look at each instance of persecution.

**OLD TESTAMENT**

In Matthew 23:29-35 Jesus was ripping the Pharisees and Scribes for being hypocrites because they would build the tombs of the prophets and garnish the sepulchers of the righteous. They would say that if they had lived in those days they would not have been partakers of them in the blood of the prophets.

Jesus responds to them that they are the children of those which killed the prophets and they are going to do worse than their fathers did.

The righteous of the past suffered persecution and the righteous of the future will suffer persecutions (Matthew 23:34-35)

We will start by looking at those who suffered persecution in the Old Testament (Matthew 23:35).

As we consider the examples of the Old Testament of those persecuted for righteousness sake, there are three main areas that I see WHY they are persecuted: (1) ASSOCIATION (2) PROCLAMATION (3) SUBMISSION.

* Association - Because they are identified with God or the people of God.
* Proclamation - Because of the message they preach or proclaim.
* Submission - Because they are obedient to and do the will of God.

Now, as we look at the persecution in the Old Testament, see if you can identify which of these areas apply in each story.

**GENESIS 4:1-12 | CAIN KILLS ABEL**

* Immediately after the creation story, the fall of man, and the promise of the gospel (Genesis 1-3), we quickly come to the first instance of persecution recorded in Scripture.
* God told Cain (Genesis 4:7) that if he did it right then he would be accepted and if he didn’t do it right he was sinning. This caused him to become very angry at his brother because his brother chose to obey God.
* Because Abel obeyed God it made Cain mad enough at him that when they were in the field Cain rose up against Him and killed him.
* Abel was the first man to be persecuted for his obedience to God.
* “Jesus clearly saw Abel’s death as an act of martyrdom (Matthew 23:35), as does the apostle John (1 John 3:12).”
* It is interesting to note that the first instance of persecution was within the family. Jesus makes note of this connection between persecution and family in Matthew 10:34-36. “Just as it divided the first family, loyalty to God often cuts families asunder.”

**GENESIS 9-26 | NOAH, LOT, ABRAHAM AND ISAAC**

* We will study more about these character on day three.

**<<< Joseph, was his situation considered persecution? >>>**

**EXODUS 1-3, 17 | ISREAL’S PERSECUTION IN EGYPT & MOSES**

* Israel, God’s chosen people, are being oppressed by Pharaoh and the Egyptians. Moses will be raised up to liberate the people from Egypt. “This choice involved Moses in a lifetime of hardship, toil, tears, and threats. He faced opposition from both within the household of faith and without--from Egyptian oppressors and from those he was sent to deliver.”
* Exodus 3:7-10 Persecuted because they are the people of God.
* During their time in Egypt the people of God went through the following persecutions:

Financial - They were afflicted by taskmasters (Exodus 1:11-12)

These task masters were ones who had power to tax the people and make them pay. The idea here was to tax them so heavy that it would decrease their wealth and cause them to be poor.

The more they afflicted Israel the more they multiplied and grew.

Physical - They made them serve with rigour (Exodus 1:13)

Rigour literally means to break apart.

The idea is they would make them work hard to the point of cruelty. They were trying to break their strength. Their lives were made bitter with this hard labor.

Death – The King Ordered All Hebrew Sons killed at Birth (Exodus 1:16)

The king order the midwives to kill the male babies at birth once the realized it was a male.

The midwives feared God more than the King and they did not kill the male babies. In spite of this order from the King the people multiplied and waxed very mighty.

We know at least one woman didn’t obey this King’s order but instead hid the baby and when he was too big to hide made him an ark and sent him down the river and the daughter of Pharaoh found the ark and kept the baby.

The Mother of the Child was chosen to nurse the baby and we know this baby was Moses and how God used Him greatly bringing Him up in the house of Pharaoh.

* Exodus 17:1-7 Moses is threatened with stoning by the people when they run out of water.
* Hebrews 11:24-29 testifies to Moses choosing to do right and being persecuted for it! Moses by faith had a true fear of God and made his decisions based on that and not based on man or man’s threats.

**1 SAMUEL 18-20 | DAVID WAS PERSECUTED BY SAUL**

* Saul persecutes David because the LORD was with David and had departed from Saul (1 Samuel 18:12; 14; 29-30). David was a man after God’s own heart (Acts 13:22).
* We see that Saul tried to kill David casting a javelin at him (1 Samuel 18:11-12). He tries a second time with a javelin and misses. (1 Samuel 19:8-10).
* He then sends messengers to David’s house to watch for Him and kill him but David’s wife, Michal, told him and he escaped (1 Samuel 19:11-12).
* Then David had to continually flee from the presence of Saul for his life. (1 Samuel 20:31-33).
* You can hear the cries of David in the Psalms (Psalm 31:13-14; 59:1-4).

**1 SAMUEL 22:1-23 | THE SLAYING OF 85 PRIEST OF THE LORD**

* Saul is on a manhunt for David.
* Doeg reports to Saul where David recently was and they go to visit the priest.
* Saul orders Doeg to slay the priest of the Lord because they helped David.
* They killed fourscore and five = 85 priest of the Lord (1 Samuel 22:18).
* He then turned against Nob, the city of the priest and killed the inhabitants (1 Samuel 22:19).

**1 KINGS 18:3-4 | JEZEBEL CUT OFF THE PROPHETS OF THE LORD**

* Queen Jezebel slew and cut off the prophets of the Lord (2 Kings 9:7)
* Obadiah had to take 100 prophets of the Lord and hide them in a cave and feed them even though it was a direct violation of King’s orders (1 Kings 18:3-4; 13).
* Jezebel taught and seduced the servants of the Lord to commit fornication and to eat things sacrificed to idols (Revelation 2:20).

**1 KINGS 18:10-19:3 | ELIJAH IS PERSECUTED**

* Elijah puts the false prophets to the test. They loose and are killed for being false prophets.
* Thus Elijah is threatened by Ahab and Jezebel (1 Kings 19:1-2)
* Elijah flees for his life (1 Kings 19:3).

**1 KINGS 19:10,14 | MORE PROPHETS HAVE BEEN KILLED.**

**2 KINGS 6:31 | ELISHA IS THREATENED TO BE KILLED**

**2 KINGS 21:16 | MANASSEH SHED INNOCENT BLOOD**

* <<< Innocent because they kept the law.
* Manasseh didn’t keep the law cause people to sin
* innocent are those opposing him >>>

**2 CHRONICLES 16:7-10 | HANANI IMPRISONED**

* Hanani was a prophet who chose to speaks the Words of God.
* The message from God was towards the King and made him mad and put him in prison.

**2 CHRONICLES 18:12-26 | MICAIAH IMPRISONED AND AFFLICTED**

* Micaiah was a prophet and he choose to only speak the words of God, even if it wasn’t good news for the King (2 Chronicles 18:13).
* The king order Micaiah to be imprisoned and feed with bread and water of affliction (2 Chronicles 18:26).

**2 CHRONICLES 24:20-22 | ZECHARIAH IS STONED TO DEATH**

* Zechariah was a Prophet who chose to speak the Words of God.
* The message made the King mad and he order the people to stone him and he died.

**ESTER 3:1-12; 5:14 | MORDECAI AND THE JEWS WERE PERSECUTED**

* Mordecai refused to worship or bow down to Haman (Ester 3:2).
* This made Haman mad and cause him to conspire with the Persian King Ahasuerus who would persecute the Jews.

**JOB, PSALMS, PROVERS, ECCLESIASTES, ISAIAH**

(Read pages 42-78

for a consideration of persecution in the life of Job and in Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Isaiah).

**JEREMIAH 1:19 11:18-23; 15:15; 17:18; 20:1-3, 8, 11; 37:15,16; 38:4-6 | JEREMIAH PERSECUTED <<< EXPAND MORE IN THE NOTES! >>>**

* “No other messenger faced persecution to the same extent as Jeremiah.”
* The people of his hometown plotted to kill him (Jeremiah 11:18-23).
* He was arrested, beaten, and put into stocks (Jeremiah 20:1-3).
* Jeremiah was also to prophesy the truth of God’s word and God tells him up front that they will fight against Him but they won’t prevail (Jeremiah1:19).
* Jeremiah suffered and was persecuted because of his message. (Jeremiah 20:8).
* Others said he should die because of his message (Jeremiah 26:11).
* Later in the book we find that Jeremiah cries out to God and states that he is under persecution and rebuke because for God’s sake.
* They called for his death (Jeremiah 26:?)
* “Why did Jeremiah continue?”

**1. From the very beginning of his ministry, he had known that his message would meet with resistance** (1:18,19).

**2. At the same time, God had promised him that He would be with him**: “‘I am with you and will rescue you,’ declares the LORD” (1:19, NIV). Years later, He reaffirmed this promise: “Surely I will deliver you for a good purpose . . . I am with you to rescue and save you,” (15:11,20, NIV). God’s presence and His promise to never to leave or forsake His people is a source of encouragement and strength to them in the midst of their persecution and rejection. They know that they are not forgotten.

**3. Jeremiah was convinced that he was preaching the words of God.** From the very beginning of his ministry, he receives the command: “You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you” (1:7). Jeremiah refers to his message as the word of the Lord (1:4,11,13; 7:1; 9:20; 10:1; 11:1; 14:1–17; 16:1; 17:20; 18:1,5; 19:3; 21:11; 25:3; 27:1; 28:12; etc.). And like the other prophets, he often introduces his messages with the phrases “Thus says the LORD,” or “ The LORD said” (1:14; 2:5,19,22; 3:1,6,10,12,14; 4:3,9,27; 6:9; etc.). He knew that when the people rejected his message and ministry, ultimately they were not rejecting him, but God.

**4. Jeremiah was driven by an intense love for his people.** He knew destruction was coming. He weeps for them (9:1; 13:17; 14:17; Lamentations 2:11; 3:48) and prays for them (14:17–22). He says in 17:16 that despite their rejection, “I have not run away from being your shepherd; you know I have not desired the day of despair.”

**JEREMIAH 26:20-23 | URIAH KILLED**

* Urijah preached the truth as Jeremiah did and when the king heard it they sought to put him to death.
* Urijah was afraid and fled but the king sent his men after him and the caught him and brought him to the king which slew him with the sword and buried him with the common people.

**DANIEL 3:1-30 | SHADRACH, MESCHACH, AND ABED-NEGO**

* King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold and commanded all the people, nations, and languages to worship the idol when the music was played. Whoever would not worship the idol when the music was played would be cast into a burning fiery furnace within the same hour.
* Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego chose to die than worship the golden image. (3:17-18) The three were cast into the fire and but God did a miracle and delivered them the fire.
* The cause the King to turn and bless the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. The king sent out a new decree that no people, nation, and language was to speak anything against their God unless they wanted to be cut in pieces and their houses turned unto a dunghill because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.
* “They were aware of the fact that just because God is able to do something, it does not mean that He will do it. But they knew that they would trust Him and follow Him regardless of the consequences. Obedience is not preconditioned on an assurance of deliverance.”

**DANIEL 6:1-28 | DANIEL IN THE LION’S DEN**

* A law was passed to prevent Daniel from praying to the Lord.
* Daniel obey God rather than men and men’s laws.
* Daniel was thrown in the Lion’s den.
* God delivered Daniel.

**AMOS 7:10-12 | AMOS WAS MOCKED**

* Amos spoke the word of the Lord even though it wasn’t what they wanted to hear.
* Amos was basically mocked and told to leave.

**APPLICATION (OLD TESTAMENT)**

After studying each of these examples of how the righteous suffered persecution, what are some conclusions we can draw about the kind of people God uses?

1. Men and women who have made the fundamental decision that they will obey

their God absolutely; they will live according to His laws whatever cost they

may have to pay.

2. Men and women who, when confronted by trials, persecutions, and the threat

of death, prove to be faithful, persevering through all difficulties, tortures, and

even martyrdom.

3. Men and women who are passionate to proclaim the sovereign rule of God and to acknowledge Him in everything, always giving Him all the praise and glory,

without ever attributing any merit to themselves.\

4. Men and women who are continually immersed in the task of telling others

about their God, leading others to Him and showing others the way of righteousness.

5. Men and women who have a clear understanding of history knowing that the

loss of temporary goods and even life itself for God’s sake is in reality not a loss

but a gain. Instead of instant satisfaction here and now, they look forward to

their true fulfillment in eternity.

Day 2

Persecution of the First Church

# Acts 4:1-4

**Who was Persecuted?**

Peter and John (Acts 3:1)

**Type(s) of Persecution? (how)**

The priest, the captain of the temple, and Sadducees laid hand on them and put them in jail overnight. (Acts 4:3)

**Reason(s) for Persecution? (why)**

Because they were preaching and teaching through Jesus the resurrection of the dead.

**Response(s) to the Persecution?**

They went to jail for the night and then continued to preach Jesus Christ.

**Result(s) to the Persecution? (for the church)**

Many that heard believed and the number of men were about five thousand. (Acts 4:4)

**How would I be tempted by human reasoning to respond to this persecution if I were in their place?**

# Acts 4:17-31

**Who was Persecuted?**

Peter and John (Acts 4:13)

**Type(s) of Persecution? (how)**

They were threatened by the council not speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus Christ. (Acts 4:19)

**Reason(s) for Persecution? (why)**

Because they were speaking and teaching salvation in only Jesus Christ. (Acts 4:12)

**Response(s) to the Persecution?**

They answered the counsel they would listen to God rather then them and they could not but speak the things which they have seen and heard. They refused to be quite and obey what they said. (Acts 4:19-20)

**Result(s) to the Persecution? (for the church)**

Six things happened as a result of the persecution: they praised God, quoted scripture, prayed for boldness to speak the truth, filled with the Holy Ghost, and continued to speak the word of God with boldness, and people believed and were saved. (Acts 4:23-32)

# Acts 5:17-42

**Who was Persecuted?**

The Apostles (Acts 5:18)

**Type(s) of Persecution? (how)**

They were put in the common prison (Acts 5:18), they were arrested and taken before the council Acts 5:26-27), and the were beaten (Acts 5:40).

**Reason(s) for Persecution? (why)**

The Apostles were doing many signs and wonders and preaching in the name of Jesus and there were people getting saved, great multitudes were following them and even cam from surrounding cities. (Acts 5:12-16)

**Response(s) to the Persecution?**

Firstly, the angel of the Lord opened the prison door and set them free and told them to go, stand, and speak in the temple to the people all the words of life and they did. (Acts 5:19-21)

Secondly, they responded to the council with “We ought to obey God rather than men.” (Acts 5:29)

Thirdly, they rejoice they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. (Acts 5:41)

**Result(s) to the Persecution? (for the church)**

“And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased no to teach and preach Jesus Christ.” (Acts 5:42)

# Acts 6:8-7:60

**Who was Persecuted?**

Stephen (Acts 6:8)

**Type(s) of Persecution? (how)**

He had false accusations against him (Acts 6:11, 13), they stirred up the people against him, caught him and brought him before the council (Acts 6:12), the counsel gnashed on him with their teeth (Acts 7:54), finally he was cast out of the city and stoned to death (Acts 7:58-60).

**Reason(s) for Persecution? (why)**

Stephen was doing great wonders and miracles among the people and he was speaking the truth and they weren’t able to resist the wisdom by which he spoke. (Acts 6:8-10)

**Response(s) to the Persecution?**

As he was before the council he preached the truth to them. (Acts 7:1-53)

**Result(s) to the Persecution? (for the church)**

Stephen became the first Martyr of the Church and prayed for those who killed him. (Acts 7:60)

# Acts 8:1-4

**Who was Persecuted?**

The Church at Jerusalem (Acts 8:1)

**Type(s) of Persecution? (how)**

There was great persecution against the church that caused the people to scatter (Acts 8:1) and Christians were being taken out of their house and being put into prison (Acts 8:3).

**Reason(s) for Persecution? (why)**

Because they were the church of the Lord Jesus Christ and preached in his name.

**Response(s) to the Persecution?**

They went everywhere preaching the gospel (Acts 8:4)

**Result(s) to the Persecution? (for the church)**

They are scattered every where and therefore used the opportunity to spread the gospel every where (Acts 8:4)

# Acts 9:1-5

**Who was Persecuted?**

The disciples of the Lord (Acts 9:1) and Jesus Himself (Acts 9:5)

**Type(s) of Persecution? (how)**

He breathed out threatening and slaughter against them and got permissions to arrest Christians. (Acts 9:1,-2)

**Reason(s) for Persecution? (why)**

He hated the church of God.

**Response(s) to the Persecution?**

Jesus calls to Saul on the Damascus road and Paul converts to being a Christian. (Acts 9:3-6)

**Result(s) to the Persecution? (for the church)**

Be became a chosen vessel of God to bear the name of Jesus before the gentiles, kings, and children of Israel. Also he suffer great thigns for Christ sake. (Acts 9:15-16)

# Acts 9:20-29

**Who was Persecuted?**

Saul (Acts 9:22)

**Type(s) of Persecution? (how)**

The took counsel to kill him (Acts 9:23) and they watched the gates day and night to kill him (Acts 9:24).

**Reason(s) for Persecution? (why)**

He preached Christ in the Synagogues that he was the Son of God (Acts 9:20).

**Response(s) to the Persecution?**

The disciples took him by night and let him down in a basket.

**Result(s) to the Persecution? (for the church)**

He went to Jerusalem and joined himself to the disciples and continued to speak boldly (Acts 926-29).

# Acts 9:29-31

**Who was Persecuted?**

Saul (Acts 9:26)

**Type(s) of Persecution? (how)**

They went about to slay him (Acts 9:29)

**Reason(s) for Persecution? (why)**

He spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus (Acts 9:29).

**Response(s) to the Persecution?**

The brethren brought him down to Caesarea and sent him forth to Tarsus. (Acts 9:30)

**Result(s) to the Persecution? (for the church)**

Then the churches had rest and were edified. (Acts 9:31)

# Acts 12:1

**Who was Persecuted?**

James the brother of John (Acts 12:2) and Peter (Acts 12:3)

**Type(s) of Persecution? (how)**

They killed James with the sword (Acts 12:2) and planned to kill Peter and put him in jail. (Acts 12:3-4)

**Reason(s) for Persecution? (why)**

The church was growing they were preaching in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Response(s) to the Persecution?**

The church prayer without ceasing for him and the angel of the Lord delivered him from the prison and set him free. (Acts 12:5-11)

**Result(s) to the Persecution? (for the church)**

The church was astonished that he was delivered from the jail and Paul told them of how he was delivered from the prison. (Acts 12:16-17)

# Acts 13:14-52

**Who was Persecuted?**

Paul and Barnabas (Acts 13:46)

**Type(s) of Persecution? (how)**

They spoke against the things spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming them (Acts 13:45) and then the expelled them from their coast (Acts 13:50)

**Reason(s) for Persecution? (why)**

He preached Jesus to them in the Synagogue. (Acts 13:16-41)

**Response(s) to the Persecution?**

They first turned to the gentiles and preached to them (Acts 13:46-48) and then they shook the dust off their feet against them and went to Iconium (Acts 13:51)

**Result(s) to the Persecution? (for the church)**

The disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Ghost (Acts 13:52)

# Acts 14:1-6

**Who was Persecuted?**

Paul and Barnabas (Acts 13:46; 14:1)

**Type(s) of Persecution? (how)**

There was an assault against them to use them despitefully and to stone them. (Acts 14:5)

**Reason(s) for Persecution? (why)**

They spoke in the synagogue and a great multitude believed. (Acts 14:1)

**Response(s) to the Persecution?**

When they were made aware of it and fled (Acts 14:6)

**Result(s) to the Persecution? (for the church)**

They left and preached the gospel to Lystra, Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, unto the region that lieth round about. (Acts 14:6)

# Acts 14:19-22

**Who was Persecuted?**

Paul (Acts 14:19)

**Type(s) of Persecution? (how)**

They stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city thinking that he was dead. (Acts 14:19)

**Reason(s) for Persecution? (why)**

The Jews from the previous two cities he was ran out of came and persecuted him for preaching the gospel. 9

**Response(s) to the Persecution?**

He rose up went to the next city and preached the gospel (Acts 19:20-21)

**Result(s) to the Persecution? (for the church)**

He taught the churches that they too would have to suffer persecution (Acts 19:22)

# Acts 16:16-40

**Who was Persecuted?**

Paul and Silas (Acts 15:40)

**Type(s) of Persecution? (how)**

Their clothes were rent, they were beaten with many stripes and then cast into the inner prison with their feet fast in the stocks (Acts 16:22-23). Then he was told to leave the city privately (Acts 16:36)

**Reason(s) for Persecution? (why)**

The cast out a demon in a woman and that caused trouble in the city and taught customs witch was not lawful for the people to receive or observe. (Acts 16:20-21)

**Response(s) to the Persecution?**

They prayed and sang praises to God (Acts 16:25) and then there was a great earthquake and the doors to the prison were opened yet they stayed in the cell.

When the magistrate let Paul go and told him to leave the city, Paul refused to leave and stayed in the city and said that they could come and fetch him out themselves (Acts 16:37)

**Result(s) to the Persecution? (for the church)**

The jail keeper was amazed that they didn’t escape and asked what he must do to be saved. He and his house were saved and baptized. (Acts 16:30-34)

They went out of the prison and to Lydia’s house and comforted the brethren (Acts 16:14)

# Acts 17:1-9

**Who was Persecuted?**

Jason (Acts 17:5)

**Type(s) of Persecution? (how)**

They assaulted the house of Jason and arrested him taking him before the rulers of the city. (Acts 17:5-6)

**Reason(s) for Persecution? (why)**

Because Paul and Silas came preaching the Gospel and that there is another king, King Jesus. (Acts 17:1-4, 7)

**Response(s) to the Persecution?**

They were arrested and them let go. (Acts 17:9)

**Result(s) to the Persecution? (for the church)**

The brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas to preach the gospel in Berea. (Acts 17:10)

# Acts 21:27-40

**Who was Persecuted?**

Paul (Acts 21:26)

**Type(s) of Persecution? (how)**

They laid hands on him (Acts 21:27) and then they planned to kill him (Acts 21:31) and they beat him (Acts 21:32). Then he was arrested and bound with chains (Acts 21:33) was a bout to be scourged (Acts 21:24) slapped on the mouth (Acts 23:2) and certain of the Jews bound themselves under a curse till Paul was killed (Acts 23:12).

**Reason(s) for Persecution? (why)**

Because he taught ell men everywhere (Acts 21:28)

**Response(s) to the Persecution?**

He asked to speak to the people when after he was arrest and gave his testimony to them (Acts 21:37-22:21)

**Result(s) to the Persecution? (for the church)**

He gave his testimony and the Lord spoke to him and told him that he would be a witness in Roma also. (Acts 23:11)

# Acts 24-28

**Who was Persecuted?**

Paul (Acts 24:10)

**Type(s) of Persecution? (how)**

He was in prison for about two years or more (Acts 24:27)

**Reason(s) for Persecution? (why)**

For preaching the gospel.

**Response(s) to the Persecution?**

He continued to preach the gospel while he was in jail and witnessed to Felix. (Acts 24:25)

**Result(s) to the Persecution? (for the church)**

Paul continued to preach the gospel and teach those as he was passed around from ruler to ruler and land to land.

Day 3 and 4

The Doctrine of Persecution

Lesson 1

# Terms to Know (5)

## Martyr – is a person who willingly suffers death rather than renounce his or her religion.

## Persecute – to pursuer with harassing or oppressive treatment

## Persecution – a program or campaign to exterminate, drive away, or subjugate a people because of their religion, race, or beliefs.

## Subjugate – to bring under complete control or subjection

## Torture – the act of inflicting excruciating pain, as punishment or revenge, as a means of getting a confession or information, or of sheer cruelty.

# Verses for Memorization

**2 Timothy 3:12** “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”

**Matthew 5:10-12** “Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness'

sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile

you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for

my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for

so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”

**Romans 12:14** “Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.”

**Introduction:**

In Matthew 16:18 we find the first mention of the church. Jesus states that He will build His Church and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it. It is interesting that in the first mention of the church that there will be persecution set against the church. It seems that it was designed this way. We can conclude three points from Jesus words:

1. Jesus will build His Church and have one in this world.
2. His Church will be mightily attacked and persecuted
3. Not of the devils attacks or persecutions will destroy it.

**Principles of Persecution**

1. **Persecution is to be expected as a result of following Christ.**
   1. **2 Timothy 3:11 -12**
      1. Those who live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution
         1. In the context Paul gives three cities in which he suffered persecution. A look at these three cities where he was persecuted gives us one common denominator why Paul was persecuted and that was because he preached the Gospel.
         2. Those who live godly in Christ Jesus are those who preach the Gospel.
         3. No only was he preaching the gospel but he was preaching it to the world. He wasn’t just preaching it in the safety of the church building or in a Sunday School class but to the heathen.
      2. Paul endured persecutions for preaching the Gospel.
         1. Antioch (Acts 13:14-45)
            1. Here is the breakdown of his sermon

Introduction (13:16)

A Survey of the Old Testament (13:17-22)

Proclamation of the Savior (13:23)

Ministry of John the Baptist (13:24-25)

The Crucifixion of Jesus Christ (13:26-29)

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ (13:30-37)

Forgiveness and Justification in Jesus (13:38-39)

A Warning of Unbelief (13:40-41)

* + - * 1. After the message was done many of the Gentiles couldn’t wait until the next Sabbath day to hear this more about this message and many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas. (13:42-43)
        2. The next Sabbath day came and the whole city came together and the Jews saw the multitude and were filled with envy and spoke against Paul contradicting and blaspheming. (13:44-45)
      1. Iconium (Acts 14:1-5)
         1. He spoke to the Jews and Greeks in the synagogue and a great multitude believed. (14:1)
         2. The unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and made them think evil thoughts against the believers. (14:2)
         3. Paul and Barnabas continued to speak boldly in the Lord and they did many signs and wonders (14:3)
         4. The city was divided, half with the Jews and half with the Apostles. The non-believing Jews and Gentiles got together with there rulers and planned an assault to us them despitefully and stone them. (14:4-5)
         5. They fled to the next city and continued to preach the Gospel. (14:6-7)
      2. Lystra (Acts 14:6-19)
         1. Paul and Barnabas fled into this city to escape being stoned in Iconium. (14:6)
         2. They preached the Gospel (14:7)
         3. The healed and impotent man in his feet being a cripple from his mother’s womb. (14:8-10)
         4. The people of the city saw the miracle that they did and they started treating them and as if they were god’s come down from heaven. (14:11-13)
         5. When Paul and Barnabas heard this they were very upset and ripped their clothes and ran among the people crying that they were just men and preached the truth. (14:14-17)

Turn from vanities unto the Living God

The Creator God

The witness of the Creator

* + - * 1. The people restrained and did not offer sacrifices to them (14:18)
        2. The Jews who had persecuted them in Antioch and Iconium cam to Lystra and persuaded the people against them and they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city thinking he was dead. (14:19)
  1. **Luke 9:21-23**
     1. Jesus first tells us that he is going to have to suffer many things, be rejected, and then slain. (9:21-22)
        1. They conspired against Him for healing on the Sabbath (Mark 3:6)
        2. They attempted to kill Him for teaching the truth in the Synagogue (Luke 4:28-30)
        3. They persecuted and sought to kill Him (John 5:16)
        4. They sought to destroy him for cleansing the Temple (Mark 11:15-18)
        5. They killed Him (Acts 3:13-15)
     2. Jesus then tells them to come after Him it means they are going to have to suffer also.
     3. It is a hard thing to follow after Christ because it means denying yourself, taking up your cross daily, and following him. (9:23)
        1. “If” and “Will” as seen in this passage mean that it is a choice for a person to follow Christ.
        2. Self denial
           1. At salvation is realizing there is nothing good in you and you are a hopeless sinner on your way to hell.
           2. As a disciple means you are willing to say no to what you want and desire for the sake of the Gospel and following Christ.
        3. Take Up Your Cross Daily
           1. At Salvation it means you are willing to die to your own way of righteousness, killing yourself, and trusting in Jesus Christ alone for Salvation.
           2. As a disciple it means from the point of Salvation on, you are daily dyeing to your self because you still live in this sinful body.
        4. Following Christ
           1. At Salvation means you are holding nothing back but have decided to make Him your Savoir and Lord.
           2. As a disciple it means you are willing to do anything he may ask of you to the point of death.
     4. Afflictions, trials, and persecutions are part of the Christian life and can be expected in a disciple of Christ just as evident as it was in the life of Christ.
  2. **Matthew 23:29-35**
     1. Jesus was rebuking the Pharisees and Scribes for being hypocrites because they would build the tombs of the prophets and garnish the sepulchers of the righteous.
        1. They would say that if they had lived in those days they would not have been partakers of them in the blood of the prophets.
        2. Jesus responds to them that they are the children of those which killed the prophets and they are going to do worse than their fathers did.
     2. The righteous of the past suffered persecution and the righteous of the future will suffer persecutions
     3. Some of the persecuted righteous of the Old Testament (Matthew 23:35)
        1. Abel was the very first man to be persecuted for his obedience to God (Genesis 4:1-10)
           1. God told Cain in verse 7 that if he did it right then he would be accepted and if because he didn’t do it right he was sinning. This caused him to become very angry at his brother because his brother chose to obey God.
           2. And because Abel obey God it made Cain mad enough at him that when they were in the field Cain rose up against Him and killed him.
        2. Israel’s Persecution in Egypt (Exodus 1-3)
           1. Financial - They were afflicted by taskmasters (1:12)

These task masters were ones who had power to tax the people and make them pay. The idea here was to tax them so heavy that it would decrease their wealth and cause them to be poor.

The more they afflicted Israel the more they multiplied and grew.

* + - * 1. Physical - They made them serve with rigour (1:13)

Rigour literally means to break apart.

The idea is they would make them work hard to the point of cruelty. They were trying to break their strength. Their lives were made bitter with this hard labor.

* + - * 1. Death – The King Ordered All Hebrew Sons killed at Birth (1:16)

The king order the Hebrew midwives to kill the male babies at birth once the realized it was a male.

The midwives feared God more than the King and they did not kill the male babies. In spite of this order from the King the people multiplied and waxed very mighty.

### Death – The King Ordered All Sons (Hebrew or Egyptian) cast into the River at Birth (1:22)

### We know at least one woman didn’t obey this King’s order but instead hid the baby and when it was to big to hid made it an ark and sent him down the river and the daughter of Pharaoh found the ark and kept the baby.

### The Mother of the Child was chosen to nurse the baby and we know this baby was Moses and how God used Him greatly bringing Him up in the house of Pharaoh.

#### David was Persecuted by Saul (1 Samuel 18:11-12; 19:9-12)

#### Saul persecutes David because the LORD was with David and had departed from Saul.

#### We see that Saul tried to kill David casting a Javelin at him. Then he tries again with a Javelin and misses.

#### He then sends messengers to David’s house to watch for Him and kill him but David’s wife, Michal, told him and David escaped. Then David had to continually flee from the presence of Saul for his life.

* + - 1. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego were persecuted by Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 3)
         1. King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold and commanded all the people, nations, and languages to worship the idol when the music was played. Whoever would not worship the idol when the music was played would be cast into a burning fiery furnace within the same hour.
         2. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego chose to die than worship the golden image. (3:17-18) The three were cast into the fire and but God did a miracle and delivered them the fire.
         3. The cause the King to turn and bless the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. The king sent out a new decree that no people, nation, and language was to speak anything against their God unless they wanted to be cut in pieces and their houses turned unto a dunghill because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.
      2. The Prophets of the Lord were persecuted by Jezebel (1 Kings 18:4; 1 Kings 9:7; Revelations 2:20)
         1. She slew and cut off the prophets of the Lord.
         2. She taught and seduced the servants of the Lord to commit fornication and to eat things sacrificed to idols.
      3. Amos (Amos 7:10-12)
         1. Amos was made fun of because He prophesied unto the people of Israel the truth the God had told Him.
      4. Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:19; 15:15; 37-38)
         1. Jeremiah was also to prophesy the truth if God’s word and God tells him up front that they will fight against Him but they won’t prevail.
         2. Later in the book we find that Jeremiah cries out to God and states that he is under persecution and rebuke because for God’s sake.
      5. Urijah (Jeremiah 26:20-23)
         1. Urijah preached the truth as Jeremiah did and when the king heard it they sought to put him to death.
         2. Urijah was afraid and fled but the king sent his mean after him and the caught him and brought him to the king which slew him with the sword and buried him with the common people.
    1. Some of the persecuted righteous of the New Testament (Matthew 23:34)
       1. Stephen was Martyred (Acts 6:8-7:60)
          1. Stephen was the first Martyr of the New Testament Church
          2. They stoned Him to death.
       2. Paul was Persecuted (1 Corinthians 4:11-13; 2 Corinthians 11:23-28)
          1. He was treated as the filth of the world
          2. The suffering of Paul

Of the Jews five times received I forty *stripes* save one.

Thrice was I beaten with rods

once was I stoned,

thrice I suffered shipwreck,

a night and a day I have been in the deep;

*In* journeyings often,

*in* perils of waters,

*in* perils of robbers,

*in* perils by *mine own* countrymen,

*in* perils by the heathen,

*in* perils in the city,

*in* perils in the wilderness,

*in* perils in the sea,

*in* perils among false brethren;

In weariness and painfulness,

in watchings often,

In hunger and thirst,

in fastings often,

In cold and nakedness.

* + - 1. James was Martyred (Acts 12:1-2)
         1. He was killed by the sword
         2. He was the first martyr among the apostles
      2. Peter Was Put Into Prison (Acts 12:3-5)
         1. He was put into prison to be killed
         2. An Angel of the Lord delivered him that night
      3. The church and future believers will also be persecuted for taking the same stand as these men.
  1. **Luke 21:12-19**
     1. We will be hated and persecute for His name sake (21:12, 17)
        1. This is a testimony (21:13)
        2. We are to trust in Him to give us what to say in times of persecution (21:14-15)
     2. You will even be betrayed by those closest to you and can be betrayed but all of them at the same time. (21:16)
        1. Parents
        2. Brethren
        3. Kinsfolk
        4. Friends
     3. They will persecute you by: (21:12, 16)
        1. Laying hands on you
        2. Delivering you up the synagogues
        3. Putting you in prison
        4. Brought before Kings and Rulers
        5. Put to death

1. **Persecution is not a punishment from God.**
   1. **Romans 8:35 -39**
      1. Nothing, including persecution, can separate us from the love of Christ.
      2. We need to know this truth and understand that persecution isn’t a punishment from God.
      3. They can bring all these persecutions on us but we won’t be separated from Him nor are we being punished by him.
         1. Tribulation – being afflicted, pressure
         2. Distress - anguish
         3. Persecution
         4. Famine – hunger, starvation
         5. Nakedness
         6. Peril - danger
         7. Sword – judicial punishment
      4. We are more than conquerors though Him, we have the victory.
      5. Just as in the Old Testament the true worshiper of God were killed, counted as sheep before the slaughter, Psalm 44:22, so will the New Testament church for being true worship of God through Jesus Christ.
   2. **2 Corinthians 4:8-11**
      1. We are persecuted but not forsaken. (4:8-9)
         1. We may have trouble on every side but we are not cramped or stuck
         2. We may have not way out but we are not utterly at a loss
         3. We may be persecuted but we are not left behind
         4. We may be thrown down but we are not destroyed
      2. It is not punishment but to make manifest the life of the Lord Jesus in our bodies (4:10-11)
   3. **Matthew 5:10-11**
      1. You are not being punished when you are persecuted but you are blessed.
      2. You are being persecuted for righteousness sake or for His sake.
      3. Blessed are ye when:
         1. You are persecuted
         2. You are reviled
         3. All manner of evil is spoken against you falsely
2. **Persecution is an opportunity to grow closer to Christ.**
   1. **John 15:20-21**
      1. The servant is not greater than his Lord.
      2. We get an opportunity to grow closer to Christ because we will experience the things the had had to experience.
      3. The persecute us because of His name sake and therefore means we are living or growing closer to Him.
   2. **Philippians 3:10**
      1. We can take part in the fellowship of his suffering.
      2. It is for a purpose and He is the purpose.
3. **Persecution is a reason for rejoicing.**
   1. **Acts 5:40-42**
      1. The apostles rejoiced in persecution because it meant they were worthy to suffer shame for his name.
      2. Are you counted worthy?
      3. The apostles were preaching and teaching in Jesus name and was beaten for is and told not to do it anymore, but they refused and when out rejoicing.
      4. Not only did they go out rejoicing but they went daily in the temple , and in every house and ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.
      5. Preaching > Persecution > Praise > Persecution
   2. **Acts 16:22-25**
      1. Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises while they were in prison.
      2. Persecution is not a time to be upset but a time to rejoice.
      3. They had made up their minds that they were going to glorify God no matter the circumstances.
      4. Their singing was a testimony to the other prisoners, who most likely were not cheerful or rejoice for being put in jail.
      5. In the worst of circumstances, praise God!
4. **Persecution is rewarded.**
   1. **Revelation 2:10**
      1. This is written to the Church at Smyrna
         1. They will suffer, fear not.
         2. Cast into prison by the devil, that you might be tried.
         3. Be faithful unto death and receive a crown.
      2. Martyrs, those who are killed for Christ sake will receive the crown of life as a reward.
      3. James 1:12 says those who endure temptations and are tried will receive the crown of life also.
      4. Therefore persecution is rewarded, if it is for Christ sake, with the crown of life.
   2. **Matthew 5:10-12**
      1. The persecuted are blessed (happy, fortunate) because:
         1. For theirs is the kingdom of heaven
            1. No more hunger or thirst (Revelation 7:16)
            2. No more tears (Revelation 7:17)
            3. No more death, pain, or sorrow! (Revelation 21:4)
            4. Pearl gates and a street of gold (Revelation 21:21)
            5. We will be with God Himself (Revelation 21:3)
            6. No more curse (Revelation 22:3)
            7. We will reign forever and ever with God (Revelation 22:5)
            8. We will be worshipping and praising God! (Revelation 7:9-12)
         2. Great is their reward in heaven.
      2. We need to know that persecution is an honor and held in high esteem by God. There is great reward in heaven for those who pledge their allegiance to the Lord of Heaven and Earth and don’t back down opposition comes their way.
   3. **Mark 10:29-31**
      1. Those who are followers of Christ and have left all and followed Him as Peter had said will receive a hundredfold in this life and in the world to come eternal life.
      2. You may leave any of these for Christ sake and the gospel’s:
         1. Houses
         2. Brethren
         3. Sisters
         4. Father
         5. Mother
         6. Wife
         7. Children
         8. Lands
      3. What Jesus is saying by this is that it is a hundred times better to forsake all of these things and follow after him, even with persecutions.
      4. Being persecuted for Christ is infinitely better than any of the above things mentioned.
      5. We secondly get reward with eternal life, how much better can it get!
5. **Persecution should not be a deterrent to faithfulness.**
   1. **1 Corinthians 4:12**
      1. Persecution is not a reason to stop working for Christ.
      2. Paul says here that they are weak, despised, hungry, thirst, naked, buffeted, and have no certain dwelling place, yet they labor working with their hands.
      3. When persecution comes your way you just have to suffer it. There is no way around it. You can’t stop being faithful or you have lost the battle.
      4. Don’t give in or let the devil win stay faithful especially during the hard times.
   2. **Matthew 13:20-21**
      * 1. The parable of the Sower (13:3-9)
           1. The seed that fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth and when the sun was up, they were scorched because they had not root they were withered away.
           2. The seed received in stony places is that same as he that receives the word receives it immediately with joy.
           3. Yet he has not root in himself but endures for awhile.
           4. But when tribulation or persecution comes he immediately is offended or falls away.
        2. This person is fickle and persecution makes him doubt and become unfaithful to the One he received. He does not care to take up his cross and follow Christ anymore. Heaven sounded good but persecution doesn’t is his attitude.
        3. “Christ died to take away the curse but not the cross!”
           1. You need to check your life and see if the seed has been planted in the good ground. That person is one that “heard” the truth, like the others, but also “understood” the truth and you see their fruit.
           2. If you are one that had the seed planted in the good ground then your sins are forgiven and the curse is taken away but the cross or suffering is a promise to all of those who follow Christ.
        4. Your faithfulness during persecution will tell what kind of ground you are.
6. **Unwillingness to endure persecution is a sign of a false teacher.**
   1. **Galatians 6:12**
      1. The false teachers here are telling the Galatians that they need to be circumcised but the bible tells it is so they will not be persecuted for the cross of Christ.
      2. False teachers who are not willing to die for something they don’t truly believe in.
      3. False Teachers avoid persecution by avoiding the truth.
      4. Are you willing to endure persecution for the truth or the Lord Jesus Christ or do you find yourself telling lies to avoid it?
7. **Those responsible for the persecution will be punished.**
   1. **2 Thessalonians 1:6-10**
      1. The churches of Thessalonians endured persecutions and afflictions. (1:4)
      2. Paul is writing to the churches to encourage them during their times of persecutions and afflictions.
      3. He tells them that God will repay tribulation to those who trouble the churches.
         1. The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God and obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1:7-8)
         2. They will be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord. (1:9)
   2. **Revelation 6:9-11**
      1. There was a book written and that had seven seals and Jesus was the only one worthy to loose the seals thereof (Revelation 5:1-5)
      2. The fifth seal deals with the martyrs of the gospel.
      3. The martyrs cry out from under the altar and ask God how long it is going to be before he avenges their blood.
      4. He answers that they must rest a little while their brethren are to be killed also.
      5. He said it was just for a little while though, which means he is coming back to avenge their blood and the blood of those who were martyred for the gospel sake.
8. **Persecution is not to be retaliated against.**
   1. **Matthew 5:44**
      1. We are not to “render evil for evil” (1 Thessalonians 5:15) but instead we are to:
         1. We are to love our enemies
            1. We are to tell them the truth in love.
            2. We are to do good works toward them.
         2. Bless those that curse us
            1. Don’t respond with the same negative cursing
            2. Have good behavior and conduct towards them
         3. Do good to them that hate you
            1. Don’t hate them back but do good that you may win them with the way of your life.
            2. Be kind and help them with their needs.
         4. Pray for those who despitefully use you and persecute you.
            1. Jesus exampled this himself when they took him to the place called Calvary and crucified him, Jesus cry out and said “Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:34)
            2. Stephen exampled this when he was being stoned to death he kneeled down and cried with a loud voice, “Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.” (Acts 7:60)
      2. By doing this we are like our Father in Heaven who gives rain to the good and the evil, the just and the unjust.
      3. There is no reward for loving those who already love you but to those that you love who don’t love you.
      4. This is growing process to be more and more like out Father.
   2. **Romans 12:1421**
      1. We are to bless those who persecute us, bless and cures not.
      2. We are not recompense evil for evil.
      3. We are to try and live peaceably with all men.
      4. We are not to avenge ourselves for vengeance if the Lords
      5. We can heap coals of fire on our enemies heads by
         1. Feeding him if he is hungry
         2. Giving him drink if he is thirsty
      6. We are to overcome evil with good.
9. **Persecution is not to be a deterrent to peace and cheerfulness**
   1. **John 16:33**
      1. We will have tribulations and persecutions on this world but Christ has overcome the world.
      2. In the end we know we have the victory therefore we can have peace and cheerfulness in spite of persecution.
   2. **2 Corinthians 7:4**
      1. Paul was filled with comfort and had was exceeding joyful in all of their tribulations.
      2. He said they were troubled on every side with fights and fears but they were comforted by the coming of Titus.
      3. He states that it wasn’t just Titus, but God who comforts those who are cast down, comforted them by sending them Titus.
10. **Persecution is to be taught to converts.**
    1. **Acts 14:22**
       1. Paul returned to the cities of Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch again to confirm the souls there or strengthen them.
       2. He exhorted them to continue in the faith and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.
       3. That means that in our Christian life, from now until the day we enter into eternity, we are going to have many persecutions and suffering for the name of Christ.
       4. He taught it to them even before the church was established, that church had the foundation of Matthew 16:18.
    2. **Philippians 1:29-30**
       1. Paul is writing this as he is in bonds (1:7)
       2. Paul being in bonds is causing others to preach without fear (1:14)
       3. We aren’t called just to believe on Him but also to suffer for His sake. (1:29)
       4. Paul is teaching the saints at Philippi that they are called to suffer in the same way that they see Paul suffering (1:30)
       5. The way this suffering is going to come about is to be living the gospel! (1:27)
11. **Persecution produces patience.**
    1. **Romans 5:3**
       1. Tribulation (persecutions) produces patients (endurance)
          1. Patients produces experience (trustworthiness)
          2. Experience produces hope (confidence)
          3. Hope produces not ashamed
       2. Patients means in the New Testament the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings.
    2. **Romans 12:12**
       1. We expect persecution and tribulation in this life
       2. Let us not murmur against God but be patient
       3. Let us bear through and endure proving God has done a working out our life.
12. **Those persecuted are promised comfort.**
    1. **2 Corinthians 1:3-11**
       1. God comforts us in our persecution
       2. We are to use the comfort that we had during our time of persecution to comfort others in persecution.
       3. The more they suffer for the cause of Christ the more Christ comforts them.
       4. Paul gives his persecution report and tells how God delivered them.
       5. Paul also says there prays where comfort to him during his persecution.
    2. **Psalm 119:15**
       1. The word of God is also our comfort in times of affliction.
       2. David says that is makes him alive.
13. **Persecution is not unnoticed**
    1. **Revelation 2:9**
       1. Jesus knows our persecutions.
       2. It does not go unnoticed
    2. **Hebrews 13:3**
       1. We as Christians are to remember those who are in bonds
       2. We are to hurt and care for them as if it was us.
14. **Persecution is not to be feared**
    1. **Revelation 2:10**
       1. We are not to fear those things we know we will suffer.
       2. Anything from prison to death.
    2. **Hebrews 13:6**
       1. God is our helper
       2. We are not to fear what man shall do unto us

The Other Side of Persecution

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| **Persecution** | **The Other Side** |
| Building Destruction | Your building is only a material item and your church will grown stronger as it has to put effort into secretly meeting. |
| Imprisonment / Jailed | You will be able to witness to those in the jail with you and/or use that time as prayer grounds for your persecutors. |
| Beaten / Physically Injured | You will be a model to the people seeing that you truly believe what you say and they will take note of that as you plant the seed in their hearts. |
| Kicked out of the Country / Banned | Use your language and ability in another part of the world to reach those people and use your story to raise up more men of God to take your place. |
| Killed / Martyred | You will be in heaven with the Lord Jesus and your story will be used to mobilize other people to take the gospel their. |
| **“The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.”** | |