

“Blessed are those who are persecuted  
(why) for righteousness’ sake,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:10

# The Coming Persecution

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Because persecution, like spiritual fruit, is an outward sign of living and abiding in Christ in obedience.

Consider the following:

# The Blessings of Persecution



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Yes, and all who desire to live godly  
in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

2 Timothy 3:12

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Finally, we must apply its truth to our lives.

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See John 15:18-21

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“Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, (then) they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, (then) they will keep yours also.”

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But if you are not being persecuted, does that mean Jesus' words are false?



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If – Did they persecute Jesus?

Then – Will they persecute you?

But if you are not being persecuted, does that mean Jesus' words are false?

Or could it mean something else?

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It was no longer about the new birth or the coming sacrifice of Jesus for the sins of humanity.

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And it speaks of a conflict between the light and the darkness and the purpose of the light.

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“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

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“And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, (why) because their deeds were evil.”

“For everyone practicing evil (what) hates (to detest, implying active ill will in words and conduct, a persecuting spirit) the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed (by the light).”

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“He who has an ear to hear, let him hear!”



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Let's begin in Matthew

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So what are we to do?

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How can we prepare for the coming persecution?

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How can we prepare for the coming persecution?  
And how should we respond when it comes to us?

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So what are we to do?

How can we prepare for the coming persecution?  
And how should we respond when it comes to us?

Let me give you a bullet-point list that we will develop in much greater detail next Sunday.

# How to Prepare for Persecution

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1. Fear God and Not Man



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Philippians 2:15-16



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1 Peter 2:20-23, 1 Corinthians 10:13

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## 7. Keep Eternity in View

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## 8. Remember to Worship Him, Come What May

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## 9. Hide God's Word in Your Heart (Memorize it!)

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Psalm 1:1-2; 119:11, 105

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## 12. Get Serious About God Today!

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## 12. Get Serious About God Today!

Because we are running out of tomorrows!

