

The Blessedness of Persecution

Matthew 5:10-12 | November 17, 2019

The Reasons for Persecution

1. A _____ life

2. The _____ One

The Realities about Persecution

Persecute: "to _____ or _____"

1. _____ something good

2. _____ something "bad"

Matthew 23:34 Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town.

Acts 26:11 And I punished them often in all the synagogues and tried to make them blaspheme, and in raging fury against them I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

Acts 8:1 And Saul approved of [Stephen's] execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

Acts 13:50 But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district.

John 14

Two major themes:

1. The peace of Jesus' _____
2. The love of Jesus' _____

John 15

One word: _____ - "to remain, to stay, to dwell"

The world is trying to _____ you away from _____ in Christ.

The Results of Persecution

1. Kingdom Confirmation
2. Heavenly _____

"Rejoice and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven.' There shall the poor be seen in the halls of joy. With his own hand God wipes away the tears from the eyes of those who had mourned upon earth. He feeds the hungry at his Banquet. There stand the scarred bodies of the martyrs, now glorified and clothed in the white robes of eternal righteousness instead of the rags of sin and repentance. The echoes of this joy reach the little flock below as it stands beneath the cross, and they hear Jesus saying: 'Blessed are ye.'" - Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Cost of Discipleship*, 128

The Responses to Persecution

1. _____
2. _____