

**MARKS OF GODLY BELIEVERS**  
**PART 2– ENDURING PERSECUTION**  
**2 TIMOTHY 3:11-12**

**Introduction**

**We're back in our text here in 2 Timothy this evening after briefly being away for a couple of weeks for some special services.**

**We're looking at the MARKS OF GODLY BELIEVERS here in verses 10-13. We took a couple of weeks to look at verse 10 as we dealt with the first mark—FOLLOWING GODLY EXAMPLES!**

**Tonight we move to verses 11 and 12 as we see another mark:  
A GODLY PERSON ENDURES PERSECUTION.**

**I. THE APOSTLE PAUL SUFFERED SEVERE PERSECUTION AND AFFLICTION! (Vs 11)**

He specifically mentions three experiences that Timothy knew about!

**A. The Persecution At Antioch! (Acts 13:14-50)**

1. Paul And Barnabas Went To The Synagogue! (Vs 14)
2. They Were Invited To Give A Word Of Exhortation! (Vs 15)
3. Then Paul Obligated Them By Preaching To Them The Gospel Of Jesus Christ! (Vs 16-41)
4. The Jews Left The Synagogue And The Gentiles Remained And Asked These Words To Be Preached To Them On The Following Sabbath Day! (Vs 42)
5. The Jews Followed Paul And Barnabas Who Spoke Briefly To Them, Persuading Them To Continue In The Grace Of God! (Vs 43)
6. On The Next Sabbath Day Nearly The Whole City Came Together To Hear The Word Of God! (Vs 44)

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7. That Was A Problem Because The Jews Got Envious And Began To Speak Against Paul And His Words! (Vs 45)
  8. Paul And Barnabas Made A Bold Statement! (Vs 46-47)
  9. The Gentiles Were Glad And Glorified The Word Of The LORD And Many Of Them Were Saved! (Vs 48)
  10. The Word Of The LORD Began To Be Published In All Of That Region Round About Antioch. (Vs 49)
  11. But, The Jews Stirred Up The Civil Leaders Of The City Who Raised Persecution Against Paul And Barnabas And Expelled Them From Their Area! (Vs 50)
  12. Paul And Barnabas Reaction? (Vs 51-52)
- B. The Persecution At Iconium! (Acts 14:4-6)**
1. They Pretty Much Did The Same Thing That They Had Done In Antioch And A Great Multitude Of Both Jews And Gentiles Believed! (Vs 1)
  2. But, The Unbelieving Jews Somehow Stirred Up The Gentiles And Made Their Minds Evil Affected Against The Brethren! (Vs 2)
  3. Paul And Barnabas Stayed There A While Speaking Boldly. (Vs 3)
  4. There Was A Division Between Those Who Held With The Them And Those Who Held With Jews! (Vs 4)

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5. A Large Mob Of Gentiles And Jews With Their Rulers Set Out To Assault And Stone Paul And Barnabas And They Had To Flee For Their Lives To Lystra And Derbe And The Surrounding Areas! (*Vs 5-6*)

**C. The Persecution At Lystra! (Acts 14:7-21)**

1. They Began By Preaching The Gospel There! (*Vs 7*)
2. The LORD Then Used Them To Heal A Man Who Had Been Lame From Birth! (*Vs 8-10*)
3. The People Misinterpreted What They Saw Thinking That Paul And Barnabas Were Some Kind Of Gods! (*Vs 11-13*)
4. Paul And Barnabas Preached That They Should Turn From Their Idols Unto The Living God! (*Vs 14-18*)
5. Some Of The Troublemakers From Both Antioch And Iconium Came To Lystra And Stirred Up Trouble For Paul And Barnabas Such That The People Even Stoned Paul And Dragged Him Out Of The City For Dead! (*Vs 19*)
6. By God's Good Grace, As The Disciples Stood Round About Him, God Raised Him Up And He Came Back Into Lystra And Then Departed The Next Day With Barnabas For Derbe. (*Vs 20*)

Paul (and Barnabas) were constantly persecuted and attacked time and again for the sake of the Gospel.

But Paul had this to say in our text in *2 Timothy 3:11*—“...*what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.*”

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The Lord delivered them and I want you to notice *Acts 14:21!*

Paul never failed to witness for Christ; therefore, Christ never failed to deliver Paul. But note that **deliverance does not always mean deliverance from persecution, but rather it means deliverance through persecution.**

i.e. God strengthens and carries the believer through persecution, not necessarily out of persecution. This is what Paul is declaring.

*THE APOSTLE PAUL SUFFERED SEVERE PERSECUTION AND AFFLICTION!*

**II. THE GODLY BELIEVER WILL SUFFER PERSECUTION!**  
**(Vs 12)**

**Now understand that one may suffer persecution to either a greater degree than Paul or to a lesser degree than Paul, but he cannot TOTALLY escape it, not if he is a Godly believer!**

**Scripture gives us some specific reasons why Godly believers will suffer persecution.**

**A. Godly Believers Will Suffer Persecution Because The World Hates The One In Whom We Have Identified With, Who Lives Within Us, And Whom We Follow!**  
**(John 15:18; 20-27)**

The ungodly of the world want no god other than themselves or at least a god that is after the image of their own imaginations!

The world wants to live their lives just as they want to! (self!) (i.e. They want to fulfill their own desires, **not** do what pleases the one true God!)

However, the Godly believer dedicates his life to God—To His worship and service!

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So the ungodly man wants no part of the one true God!  
Therefore, they oppose those who talk about the one true God!  
They resist any call to repent of their sin and believe on God's  
Son, Jesus Christ and they resist those who honor and worship  
Him!

**B. Godly Believers Will Suffer Persecution Because They Are  
Not Of This World! (John 15:19)**

Believers are called out of the world! Yes, we are still **in** the  
world, but we are no longer **of** the world!

Our behavior is different and actually is a source of  
consternation to the world. (e.g. *The pressure to drink socially*)

Therefore, the world reacts against Believers by scorn, ridicule  
and mockery, by verbal and physical abuse, and even by  
discrimination!

**C. Godly Believers Will Suffer Persecution Because Godly  
Believers Strip Away The World's Cloak Of Sin!**

As Believers live and demonstrate a life of Christ's  
righteousness living within them and as they fail to  
compromise with the world and its sinful behavior, it brings  
deep conviction in the unbelieving!

Such living exposes the sins of people, and this exposure stirs  
them to react against the Godly believer.

*John 15:18, 22—"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me  
before it hated you....If I had not come and spoken unto them,  
they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin."*

*John 16:8-11*

**D. Godly Believers Will Suffer Persecution Because The  
World Does Not Know God Nor Christ! (John 16:1-3)**

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**E. Godly Believers Will Suffer Persecution Because The  
World Is Deceived In Its Concept And Belief Of God!**

The world conceives God to be the One Who fulfills their  
earthly desires and lusts!

Man's idea of God is often that of a Supreme Grandfather!

They think that God protects, provides, and gives no matter  
what a person's behavior is, just so the behavior is not too far  
out there! (*And they decide what too far out there is!*)

They think God will accept them and work all things out in the  
final analysis. However, the true Believer teaches that not only  
is God a God of love, but that He is also just and demands a  
righteousness that we do not possess in ourselves!

The world rebels against that concept of God!

*John 15:20—"Remember the word that I said unto you, The  
servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me,  
they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they  
will keep yours also."*

And why did they persecute Jesus? Because He came and  
revealed a God to them that they didn't like!

**III. SO WHAT SHOULD THE ATTITUDE AND ACTION OF A  
GODLY BELIEVER BE TOWARD THESE PERSECUTIONS?**

A Godly believer endures persecution!

**A. Don't Be Surprised When Persecutions Come!**

*1 John 3:13—"Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you."  
1 Peter 4:12-14*

**B. Don't Allow Your Faith To Be Moved By Persecution!**

*1 Thessalonians 3:3—"That no man should be moved by these  
afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed  
thereunto."*

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**C. Ask And Look For God’s Grace To Endure The Persecution To The Glory Of God!**

*Philippians 1:29–“For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake.”*

*1 Peter 5:10*

**Conclusion**

*So, a Godly person follows a Godly example!*

*A Godly person endures persecution!*

Are you ready for the possible and likely persecution that could be coming our way in light of a change in our country’s leadership?

Especially if that is coming at us with the godless party coming at us with the Presidency and controlling both the House and the Senate and thereby likely packing the Supreme Court?

We had better **WISE UP** to that possibility:

*Romans 13:11-14 “11 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: [WAKE UP!] for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: [LOOK UP!] let us therefore cast off the works of darkness [CLEAN UP!], and let us put on the armour of light. [SUIT UP!] 13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. [WALK UP!] 14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.” [CHECK UP!]*