

Standing For Truth

Part 8: Standing Firm In Persecution

2 Timothy 3:12

Sunday, March 26, 2023
Pastor Paul J. Hoover

I. Persecution Is Inevitable for Christians (1 Peter 4:1-2, 10-19)

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

The Bible says ALL that live godly in Christ Jesus, will suffer persecution.

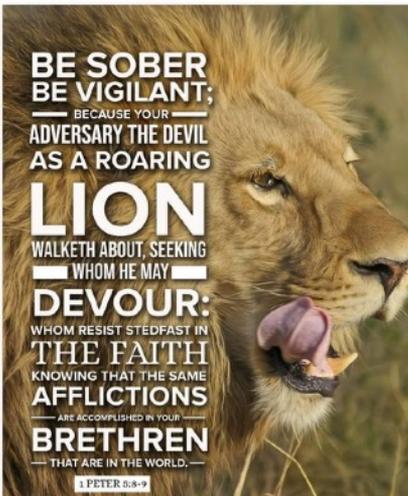
Persecution should not be a strange thing for Christians, but rather it is something that is to be expected.

1 Peter 4:1-2, 12-13

Matthew 5:10-12 — “¹⁰Blessed *are* they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. ¹²Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great *is* your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

1 Peter 4:14-19

II. We Can Stand Firm in Persecution (1 Peter 5:8-9)



1 Peter 5:8-9

Resist - don't give in.

Stay **stedfast in the faith**

Knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world; - Satan wants us to think that we are the only one who is doing right or the only one who is being persecuted.

“If you don’t have any enemies in life,
you have never stood up for anything.”

— Winston Churchill



III. Persecution Can Strengthen Our Faith (1 Peter 5:10-11)

Acts 8:1-5

In order for this wonderful evangelistic outreach in Samaria to take place, it meant that there had to be sorrow in Jerusalem. Jerusalem had been the scene of persecution and displacement.

Persecution ultimately makes us stronger when we realize why we are being tried and tested.

1 Peter 5:10-11

We are persecuted, tried and tested so that our faith would be made stronger and God would get all of the credit and glory He deserves.

James 1:2-4 — “²My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ⁴But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”

1. Albert Barnes’ Notes
2. Adrian Rogers, “The Book of the Ages,” in *Adrian Rogers Sermon Archive* (Signal Hill, CA: Rogers Family Trust, 2017), 2 Ti 3:12–4:5.