

7/19/2020

title : **A Real Pandemic : Persecution**def. Greek *pandemos* - of all the people, public, common

v 16--25 Persecution Predicted

A. Sources of Persecution

(1) officials, magistrates, rulers - Ephesians 6:12

v17-18 *beware of...councils* (a) civic, Acts 25:12 & (b) religious, Mt 12:14 (covered last week)

e.g. Council of Nicaea, 325 AD - omitted

1. The Absolute Authority of the Bible = faith

2. The Gospel of Christ alone saves = love

3. The Second Coming of Christ = hope

Council of Trent, 1545-1563 AD made 151 decrees, of which
125 are *anathemas*, curses against Bible believers.

*** Psalm 10:2, 7-9 Psalm 109:2, 17-18 ***

(2) family - v 36, 21

Having our own family oppose us hurts deeply.

truth : The disciple must set his love for Christ above his kin, v 37

note : The believer must choose between his obedience to Christ and his obedience to his family.

The believer must learn that his family needs to be converted (not himself reverted).

(3) everybody - v 22 *all men* (i.e. lost men)

B. Reasons for Persecution

(1) '*for Christ's sake*' v 18 *for my sake* v 22 *for my name's sake*

Matt 5:11 2 Cor 4:11

fact: The natural man opposes the true Christ, Romans 8:9

(2) *for a testimony* v 18fact: There is no greater testimony than standing up for Christ in the face of persecution.
It proves the truth of the Gospel.

(3) It allows God's Spirit to speak v 19-20

truth : - God stand with his child at this time and speaks through him.

Lk 12:12 & 21:15

- The Christian may be nervous, apprehensive, emotional, and even abandoned by

other believers at that moment, so God's Spirit steps in. 2 Tim 4:16-18

(4) It allows the Christian to be like Christ v 24-25

fact: Persecution is a privilege; a high privilege Phil 1:29. *It is enough*, Mt 10:25