

Spring 2016 Gospel Meeting
"Evangelism"

FACING PERSECUTION WHILE EVANGELIZING

FACING PERSECUTION WHILE EVANGELIZING

- ▣ 1. We make it our goal to go into the world and preach the gospel to all nations.
- ▣ 2. Sometimes our message will be received and sometimes it will not, **Romans 10:16**
- ▣ 3. There may be times however where we are persecuted because we proclaim the word of God.
- ▣ 4. We must preach the word at all times even in the face of persecution.

I. GOD'S MESSENGERS FACED PERSECUTION

- ▣ A. Lot was nearly harmed for speaking against Sodom, **Genesis 19:6-9**
- ▣ B. Moses was spoken against on numerous occasions
 - - Israel came against Moses several times - **Exodus 16:2; 17:3; Numbers 12:1, 8; 14:2; 16:3, 41; 20:2; 21:5**
- ▣ C. Elijah's life was in danger, **1 Kings 19:1-2, 14**

I. GOD'S MESSENGERS FACED PERSECUTION

- ▣ D. Jeremiah was persecuted for speaking God's message, **Jeremiah 38:1-6**
- ▣ E. The prophets in general were persecuted, **1 Kings 19:14; Luke 11:47-48; Acts 7:52**

I. GOD'S MESSENGERS FACED PERSECUTION

- ▣ F. The apostles were many times persecuted, **Acts 4:16-18, 40; 12:1-4; 14:19; 2 Corinthians 11:24-25**
- ▣ G. Even the Son of God was persecuted, **John 8:59; Luke 4:28-30; Matthew 12:23-24; Matthew 26-27; Mark. 14-15**

II. JESUS AND THE APOSTLES WARNED OF COMING PERSECUTION

- ▣ A. Jesus said "when," not "if" - **Matthew 10:16-25; John 15:18-20**
 - - Serving Christ means facing trials from faithless ones.
- ▣ B. Apostles taught same thing - **Acts 14:22; 1 Thessalonians 3:4.**
 - 1. **1 Thessalonians 3:4** - We must prepared to face them *before* they come.
 - 2. **2 Timothy 3:12** - Our goal of godliness leads to persecution.

III. HOW ARE WE TO DEAL WITH PERSECUTION?

- ▣ A. Suffering for Christ should be humbly received
 - - With rejoicing, **1 Peter 4:12-14; Matthew 5:10-12; James 1:2**

III. HOW ARE WE TO DEAL WITH PERSECUTION?

- ▣ B. Suffering serves to refine us, **1 Peter 1:6-7 (Psalms 66:10-12)**
 - 1. Produces **Trust**, **Psalms 3:1-8** (growth of faith)
 - 2. Produces **Patience**, **James 1:2-4 (Romans 12:12); Romans 5:3**
 - 3. Promotes **Dependence upon God**, **2 Corinthians 12:9-10**
 - 4. Should compel us to turn to God's law - **Psalms 119:71**

III. HOW ARE WE TO DEAL WITH PERSECUTION?

- ▣ C. We can **Endure** afflictions by keeping Heaven as our goal - **2 Timothy 2:12; (Romans 8:17; Philippians 3:10-11)**
 - 1. **2 Corinthians 4:16-18** - Inward man renewed, eternal glory assured
 - 2. **Revelation 2:10** - Without fear, be faithful to point of death (**James 1:12; 2 Timothy 4:6-8**)
 - 3. **1 Peter 4:13** - Rejoice when you share in Christ's suffering - Will have exceeding joy!

III. HOW ARE WE TO DEAL WITH PERSECUTION?

- ▣ D. It should not disturb our faith, - **1 Thessalonians 3:3**
- ▣ E. Persecution should never deter us from proclaiming God's word, **Acts 4:17-20, 31; 5:40-42; 14:19-22**

CONCLUSION

- ▣ 1. As we go out into the world and preach the gospel, we will encounter opposition from those who do not believe.
- ▣ 2. The examples seen in scripture will encourage us to continue preaching the gospel at all times to all nations.
- ▣ 3. May we always remember the apostle Peter's attitude when confronted with persecution for the gospel's sake, **Acts 4:19-20**