

# sermonnotes

## Faith Alive – Part 2



When we think of following Jesus, we would much rather focus on blessings than persecution. We want the perks, but not the pain.

In Western Christianity, we have an inadequate theology of persecution. We think it is odd to experience persecution even though Jesus said we should expect it.

In John 15:20 Jesus said, *“Remember the words I spoke to you: ‘No servant is greater than his master.’ If they persecute me, they will also persecute you.”*

### 1 Thessalonians 2:1–4, 13–16 (was 14–16 but 13 is ref after pt 3)

Christian persecution is the negative reactions by governments, ideologies, societies, and individuals to the presence of Christ. It is used for the purpose of silencing the positive witness of believing individuals and communities.

### Right Responses When Persecuted

1. \_\_\_\_\_ persecution – and the hardship and challenges that come with it. 2 Timothy 3:12
  - We are living out our faith in the midst of a conflict between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. 1 Peter 5:8
  - We are living out our faith in a culture that is \_\_\_\_\_ by sin. Ephesians 4:17–19

2. Develop a right \_\_\_\_\_ of persecution. 1 Corinthians 16:9
  - View it as an opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ God. 1 Thessalonians 2:4, Acts 5:41
  - View it as an opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus. Acts 4:12
  - View it as an opportunity for \_\_\_\_\_. James 1:1–2
3. Choose to \_\_\_\_\_ through the persecution. 1 Thessalonians 2:13
  - We can choose to \_\_\_\_\_ in the midst of the hardship, or we can magnify the hardship and lose sight of God.
4. Live out grace as you choose to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ those who persecute you. Matthew 5:43–44
  - Forgiveness is not a \_\_\_\_\_. Forgiveness is a \_\_\_\_\_ to end the cycle of revenge and leave justice in the hands of God.

Followers of a persecuted Master will themselves be persecuted. May we embrace persecution in a way that reveals Jesus.

Answers: Expect; light, darkness; ruled; perspective; glorify; reveal; growth; worship; magnify God; love, forgive; feeling, choice



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