

“Practical Steps for Hope in Persecution and Suffering” 5/12/19
1 Peter 3:13-17

Sermon Series- *“Living for the Glory of God in a Hostile World”*

“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”
2 Timothy 3:12 (cf. Phil 1:29; 1 Thess 3:3; John 16:33)

LESSON 1- We need to understand the REALITY of persecution.

- A. The reality of persecution for those doing good is that it’s not COMMON
- B. The reality of persecution brings blessing for the EXCEPTIONS

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” Matthew 5:10-12

Going *We can have hope in suffering because God has promised us blessing!*
Deeper

LESSON 2- We need to give the proper RESPONSE to persecution.

- A. Our response begins with the proper PERSPECTIVE (Luke 12:4-5)
- B. Our response continues with the proper PREPARATION
 - 1) ‘always be ready’ – timing and attitude (not worry but prepared)
 - 2) ‘to give a defense’ – well thought out explanation
 - 3) ‘to everyone’ – intentionally available
 - 4) ‘a reason’ – rational basis for our belief
 - 5) ‘for the hope’ – the message of the gospel (1 Thess 4:13; Eph 2:12)
 - 6) ‘that is in us’ – our personal testimony (Revelation 12:11)
 - 7) ‘with humility and respect’ – non-threatening or aggressive attitude

Going *We can have hope in suffering because God promised us Himself!*
Deeper

LESSON 3- We need to have faith in the REWARD in being persecuted.

- A. As we fear God with a clear conscience we will be VINDICATED

Going *We can have hope in suffering because God promised us vindication!*
Deeper

Our Vision- Striving to be Disciples who make Disciples