

The Persevering Power of Right Expectations

Matthew 5:10-12 - NCBC, July 7, 2019

Main Point: **Jesus' kingdom blessings belong to the persecuted.**

- **Persecution is not:**
 - Punishment – 1 Peter 4:15
 - Self-victimization – Romans 12:14-21
 - Optional – 2 Timothy 3:12
 - To be feared – 1 Peter 3:14
- **Persecution is:**
 - Physical or verbal harassment for Christ-likeness
 - Sin's self-defense against righteousness
 - Commonly motivated by religious legalism
 - A sure evidence of salvation
- **Persecution receives:**
 - NOW: Enjoyment in God's kingdom
 - Assurance of identity with Christ
 - Assurance of identity with God's people
 - THEN: A great reward in heaven
- **Joy in Persecution comes by:**
 - Who am I? - The miracle of new birth in Christ
 - Where am I going? – The expectation of faith
 - Why am I here? – The Spirit-controlled life of love

Opening Announcements:

- VBS Starts Tomorrow evening – 6pm; runs Monday thru Thursday this week
- This Friday, 7/12 – All Church Picnic & Pool Party at Tremont Pavilion/Pool at 6pm All Invited!!

<<O Lord My Rock and My Redeemer>>



The resurrection of Jesus Christ forever conquered the grave, and defeated sin. No wonder we desire for all of our days to bring glory to God's Name. There is no other Name by which we could be saved than Jesus!

Today we continue our gazing upon King Jesus by considering the final beatitude in Jesus' sermon on the mount. We will be read our passage in just a moment, so please open your Bibles now to **Matthew chapter 5**.



If you do not have a Bible this morning, simply raise your hand as people are coming now with Bibles for you to use. Once you receive a Bible, please prepare to read from **Matthew chapter 5**.

The next three weeks in the life of our church are going to be very special. This week of course is our Vacation Bible School where we are praying for God's help to faithfully proclaim His good news with hundreds of children and parents in our community. Thanks in advance to all of you who are serving and praying and partnering together with us in this significant effort!

Then next Sunday begins our 3-week Spectacular Summer Sermon Series!! For the next 3 Sundays we will take a break from studying Matthew's Gospel, as Pastor Scott Gnuse will lead us through a fascinating study of the life of Gideon from the book of **Judges**. Pastor Scott is pumped about this series, and I'm eager to learn from his study right along with you. So please pray for Pastor Scott this week as he continues his preparation, and come ready to dive into **Judges 6-8** for the rest of July!

Progression of Thought in Jesus' Beatitudes		
Poor in Spirit:	Right view of Self before God	5:3
Mourn:	Right view of Sin before God	5:4
Meek:	Right view of Suffering before God	5:5
Hunger:	Right view of Salvation before God	5:6
Merciful:	Right view of Serving before God	5:7
Pure:	Right view of Satisfaction before God	5:8
Peacemaker:	Right view of Shalom before God	5:9
Persecuted:	Right view of Society before God	5:10

Now this morning we consider a right relationship with our society from the 8th and final beatitude found in **Matthew 5:10**. In fact, **verses 11-12** expand upon the meaning of this final pronouncement of blessing so we will consider **verses 10-12** together.

Now as I read back through all of the beatitudes this morning, please note how each of these beatitudes describe true righteousness. Jesus is compiling a portrait of true righteousness that accurately describes all who enter His kingdom.



Please stand in honor of the public reading of God's Word as I read from **Matthew 5, verse 1**, in the English Standard Translation:

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

² *And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:*

³ *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

⁴ *"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

⁵ *“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*
⁶ *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*
⁷ *“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.*
⁸ *“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*
⁹ *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*
¹⁰ *“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
¹¹ *“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

This is God's Word. Please be seated.

Let's Pray.

If you could take a pill this morning that would immediately make you Christ-like in every way, would you take it or not? Obviously this is fictitious – this isn't how biblical sanctification works at all – but bear with me as I make a point this morning.

If God made it possible that you could just take one pill – and immediately you'd be perfectly righteous in all your thinking, all your desires, all your actions and words – for the rest of your life you'd be a perfect representation of Jesus Christ until you died... would you want to take that pill?

I believe some of us wouldn't be ready to be that righteous yet – for we secretly believe that true righteousness is a joy-killer. “If I was just like Christ,” you believe, “I wouldn't be able to have any more fun in this world!” And yet, all these Beatitudes start with the word, *Blessed* don't they? O how happy are those who have received the imputed righteousness of Christ Himself! Listen friend – God is not a kill-joy. God created pleasure, and the God of the Bible is the source of all pleasure and joy!¹ Satan is actually the one who hates joy and pleasure – for he is always promising it but never delivering as he seeks to destroy our potential for joy in Christ. So know this – there is no greater joy possible for the human experience than the righteousness of God!

Others might say, well ok, it sounds good. I just take this pill and immediately I'm perfectly righteous and free from sin in all of its effects? Yep. Well, that sounds a little too good to be true. After all, I don't want to be a charity case. If I don't work for it, I won't appreciate it as much. I think I'll pass for now, and I'll just keep working at my own righteousness over here by myself.

Dear friend – *Blessed are the poor in spirit* – those who admit their spiritual bankruptcy, and look to Christ alone for all the righteousness that they need.

Others might pass on the offer of immediate Christ-likeness for a different reason. For you realize that if you immediately become like Christ, this world will treat you like Christ, and you will soon face pain, rejection, and persecution. You prefer to be a safe Christian – you want your fire insurance but you don't want to be so

¹ Psalm 16:11

godly as to attract any attention to yourself from the enemies of righteousness. So you would kindly pass on such a stunning offer in your lukewarm apathy.

But listen, Jesus has been describing a composite picture of His righteousness in the human heart through these beatitudes, and now in this final pronouncement He wants us to know that,



His kingdom blessings belong to the persecuted.

It's a privilege to be persecuted for righteousness' sake. This is not something we should seek to avoid whenever it comes. As those who have been united by faith to Christ, we should expect that our likeness to Christ would cause us to share in the fellowship of His sufferings.² We must not be like Peter in **Matthew 16**, who scolded the Lord, "Far be it for you to suffer persecution."³ Instead we must have the mind of the post-resurrection Peter in **1 Peter 4** who urged us to weaponize our minds with a

² Philippians 3:10

³ Matthew 16:21-22

readiness to suffer persecution and carry the cross of Christ in this world while we wait for our eternal crown.⁴

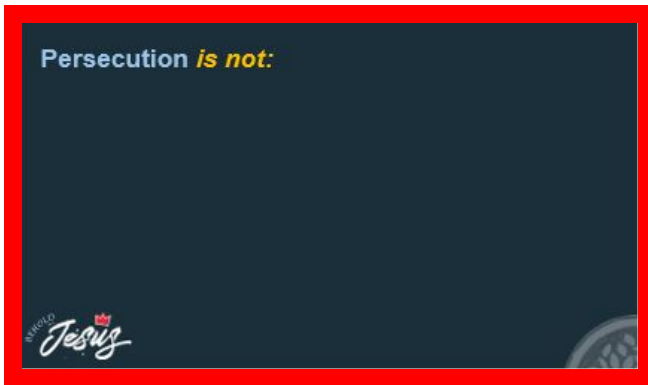
This final description of Jesus' kingdom righteousness forces us to ask sobering questions: What are my expectations for being a disciple of Jesus? Which matters to me more – popularity with others or my identity with Christ?⁵

How sad would it be if our understanding of true righteousness stopped short of this final beatitude? For if our society is treating us different than it treated Christ, perhaps its because we are not enough like Christ for the world to recognize Him in us? Jesus' kingdom blessings belong to those who possess His imputed righteousness. And all who have received the righteousness of God by faith in Christ alone will be persecuted for righteousness' sake.

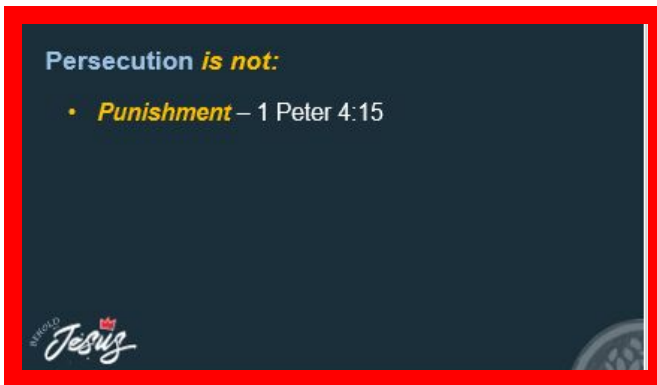
So let's unpack some misconceptions first to make sure we're thinking biblically about what it means to be persecuted for righteousness' sake.

⁴ 1 Peter 4:1-2, 12-19; c.f. 3:13-18

⁵ Luke 6:26



First, we must be clear that **Persecution is not:**



Punishment for our own foolishness, or disobedience in this world. **Matthew 5:10** clearly reserves the kingdom blessing for those who are persecuted *for righteousness' sake*. So if you are experiencing difficulty or opposition from others because of your own foolishness, that's not any kind of persecution that receives God's blessings here. That's just reaping what you've sown.⁶ **1 Peter 4:15** explains clearly,

⁶ Galatians 6:7-8
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Let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. If you are being harassed for being a busybody, or for being difficult, or for being overzealous and lacking wisdom in your evangelistic methods – that is not any kind of persecution that receives God's blessing here.

Jesus says, *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake*... not "Blessed are those who are persecuted for being self-righteous." Too many Christians are unnecessarily offensive in how they share the offense of the cross.⁷ Instead of serving as witnesses,⁸ they serve as prosecuting attorneys! In other words, being persecuted for righteousness' sake,



is not Self-victimization. We live in a day and age when every group thinks they are being victimized and persecuted by anyone who disagrees with them or criticizes them.

And many Christians fall into this self-victimization trap – not realizing that it is their ego which motivates them to

⁷ 1 Corinthians 1:18; Galatians 5:11
⁸ Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

constantly manufacture antagonistic responses towards them.⁹ They wrongly believe that being a victim of persecution will bring them attention and praise from others. But this is not what Jesus means by being *persecuted for righteousness' sake*.

While it is possible to be persecuted for your loyalty to a particular cause, or a particular political agenda, or a specific religious belief – that is not the kind of persecution that is blessed in **Matthew 5:10**. You must not misapply this promise to every situation where someone disagrees with you, or criticizes you, or harasses you because of your personal preferences. The persecution of **Matthew 5:10 through 12** is not because of anything humanly possible in us.

Jesus' kingdom blessings are reserved only for those who are persecuted *for righteousness' sake*... for those who are persecuted for being supernaturally like Christ.



Therefore, it is important to note that persecution is not **Optional** for those in Jesus' kingdom. All who have

⁹ Romans 12:9-21, especially vv. 16-18
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received the righteousness of Christ through faith in His death and resurrection, will be persecuted. **2 Timothy 3:12** says, *Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted*. No exceptions. This isn't optional. If you share in the righteousness of Jesus, and you live in the world, the world will inevitably treat you the same way it treated Him.¹⁰ To the degree that you experience all of the first seven beatitudes by the grace of God, you will likewise experience the eighth!

Therefore, persecution is not,



to be feared by Jesus' disciples. Rather persecution should be expected. A disciple is not above his master.¹¹ **1 Peter 3** reminds us,

But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled.

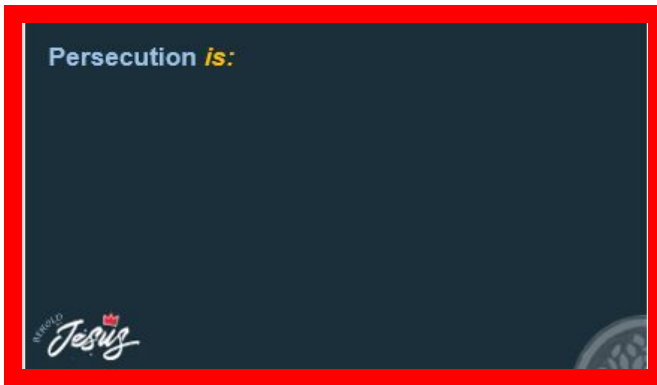
¹⁰ C.f. John 15:18-20

¹¹ Matthew 10:23-33

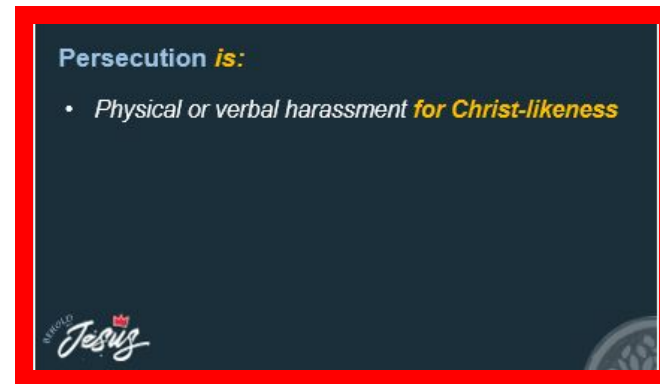
We are to fear God, not to fear those who have no power over our eternal souls.¹²

Church – do you honestly expect to be persecuted for the sake of Christ in you? Not for your own stupidity. Not out of your own attention-seeking efforts to make a name for yourself. Not for any political or religious preferences. Do you expect to be persecuted for the sake of Christ's character of love in you?

Let's now make sure we have a biblical understanding of what it means to be persecuted for righteousness' sake:



Persecution is mentioned three separate times in **verses 10-12**, and its meaning **is:**



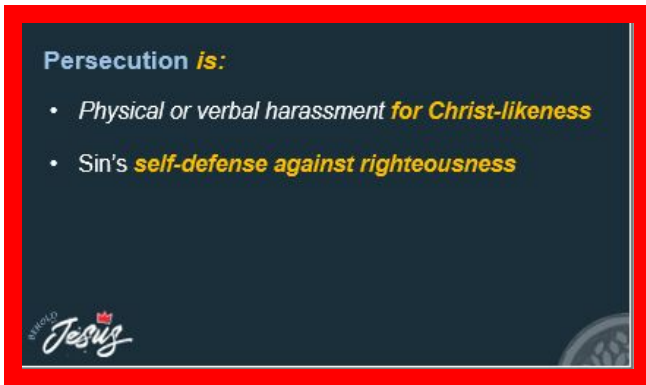
Any Physical or verbal harassment for Christ-likeness.

Persecution can take two forms – the persecution of the hand and the persecution of the mouth.¹³ But what is of greatest importance is the *cause* for the persecution. No matter whether the persecution looks like the destruction of property or health, or whether it looks like a slanderous lies – the reasons for the harassment is always *for righteousness' sake*. Or as **verse 11** says, *because of Jesus; on His account*. Because of your Christlikeness.

The persecution referred to here is any form of hostility against people simply for being like Christ. After all, persecution is how the world reacts to supernatural righteousness.

¹² Matthew 10:26, 28-33

¹³ Thomas Watson, according to Colin Smith, *Blessed are the Persecuted* - <https://unlockingthebible.org/sermon/blessed-are-those-who-are-persecuted/>



Persecution is **sin's self-defense tactic against supernatural righteousness.**

Sin hates righteousness. Darkness hates the light.¹⁴
Impurity is condemned by purity.

Let me say it this way: The gospel is offensive to unbelievers.¹⁵ Sinners hate grace. And so when this world comes into contact with supernatural righteousness – it only has two options – submit to Christ or silence Christ. And often in its self-defense sin will lash out and seek to crucify the source of righteousness and eliminate its conviction by driving it away.

By the way, as you read Scripture you will notice that persecution against God-given righteousness is,

¹⁴ John 3:19-20

¹⁵ 1 Corinthians 1:23



Commonly motivated by religious legalism. For it is the religious whose consciences are more quickly convicted by an expression of supernatural righteousness that their own human efforts are incapable of themselves.¹⁶

Cain was the first religious person to persecute the God-given righteousness found in his brother Abel.¹⁷ It was the Jewish people who persecuted the prophets throughout the Old Testament.¹⁸ The scribes and Pharisees persecuted Jesus. The Roman Catholic church persecuted Christians through the middle ages. And it is legalists today who persecute those who truly possess the righteousness of Christ in a way that threatens their false security in their own man-made systems of religion.

Isn't that interesting? Formal religion is the enemy of the true righteousness of God. And its self-defense tactic is to persecute or harass those who remind them of Jesus.

¹⁶ C.f. Romans 10:3; Colossians 2:20-23

¹⁷ Genesis 4:8

¹⁸ 1 Kings 19:2, 13-14; 22:26-27; Jeremiah 20:2; 37:15; 38:6; 2 Chronicles 24:21; etc.

So just consider this for a moment now. It is Christ in me – my likeness to Christ – that provokes the persecution spoken of in **Matthew 5:10-12**. Jesus pronounces a blessing upon all who receive physical or verbal harassment simply as a result of living out all of the Beatitudes by the indwelling power of His Spirit.

Therefore, whenever the world treats you the same way that it treated Jesus because of His righteousness in you, then the world's persecution of you is,



A sure evidence of your salvation!

Being persecuted for resembling the righteousness of Jesus is one of the greatest evidences that you have been born again, and granted the supernatural righteousness of Christ Himself!!

So don't be deceived – a Christian is not a nice, popular person that everyone likes.¹⁹ A Christian is one who has been miraculously united to the righteousness of Jesus by faith in His death and resurrection. A Christian is a

¹⁹ Luke 6:26

person who has been made into the righteousness of God Himself – all by God's grace and doing!!²⁰

Every Christ-follower, by necessity, must be persecuted by a world that hates Christ. For if you are not being persecuted, you must ask yourself what kind of righteousness you are demonstrating in this world.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Jesus is helping us see that His kingdom requires a supernatural kind of righteousness that human effort cannot attain, and that human effort despises. But the righteousness of His kingdom is worth the hatred of this world, for



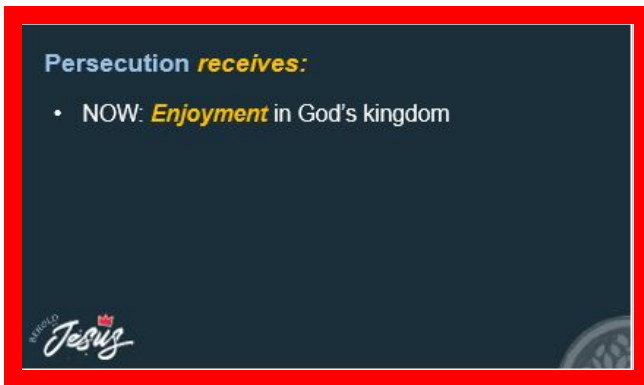
²⁰ 2 Corinthians 5:21

Being persecuted for righteousness *receives* the kingdom of heaven itself. *For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

This is the same exact phrase of **Matthew 5:3** – *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* **Verses 3 and 10** bookend these beatitudes – thereby highlighting the theme of the entire section. All of these beatitudes describe the character of true righteousness found in the kingdom of heaven.

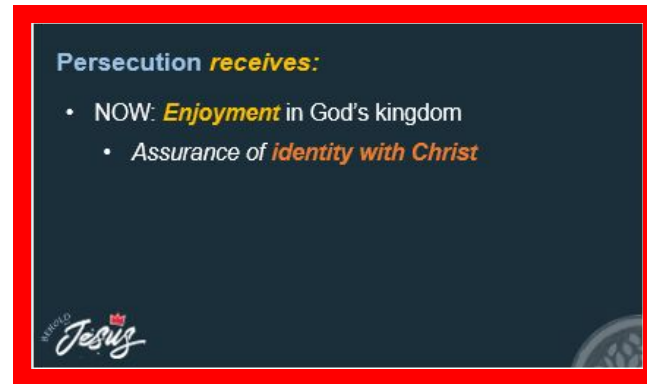
So while poverty of spirit serves as the foundational posture of true righteousness, persecution by our world’s society serves as the defining mark of the righteous heart who is enjoying God’s kingdom.

Whenever you are persecuted for the sake of resembling Jesus,



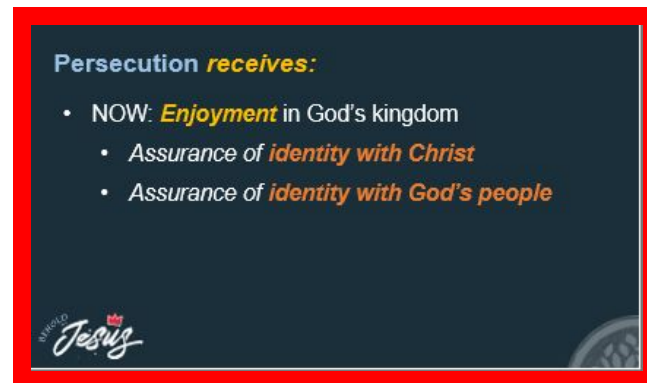
You NOW receive Enjoyment in God’s kingdom.

You might raise an eyebrow at that, right? What enjoyment can be experienced when my property is being unjustly taken from me, my loved ones are being abused, and my reputation has been destroyed by lies?



Well first, you can enjoy **Assurance of your identity with Christ**. Like we already mentioned, there’s no greater evidence that you have been united with Christ than when society treats you the same way they treated Christ for the same reasons they crucified Him!

But second, suffering now for the sake of Jesus’ Name brings real enjoyment to you now since it offers you,



Assurance of your identity with God’s people.

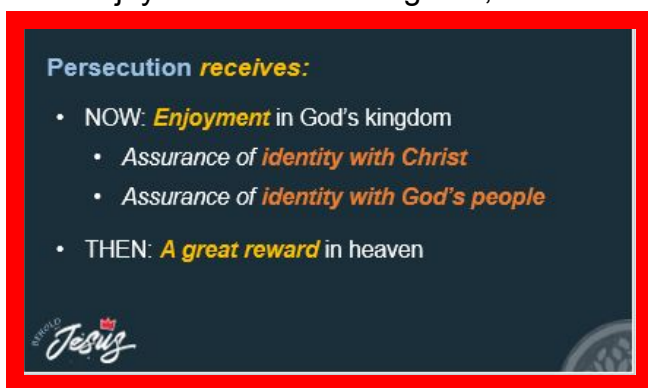
Look at the end of **verse 12**:

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Persecution of God's righteousness didn't start when Jesus arrived on the earth. God's people have always been persecuted for righteousness' sake. And your persecution connects you to a long line of godly prophets and worshippers who feared God more than they feared people, and of whom this world was not worthy.²¹ In fact, when you suffer persecution here and now for the sake of your Spirit-powered Christ-likeness, you are united with your Savior Himself, who endured His unjust cross by focusing on the future joy that was set before Him.²²

So **Matthew 5:12** commands you – it's not a suggestion – *Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven!*

NOW, persecution for righteousness' sake receives a fuller enjoyment in God's kingdom, but



²¹ Hebrews 11:36-38, c.f. 11:26

²² Hebrews 12:2

THEN – after this life is completed – our momentarily light afflictions on this earth are connected to **A great reward in heaven!**²³

To die is gain!²⁴ To depart and be with Christ is far better than anything this world can offer.²⁵ Although we suffer now on this earth, we shall reign with Christ forever²⁶ -- in heaven itself! In the very presence of King Jesus! What greater reward could we imagine that an eternal life of knowing God as His child, and He as our Heavenly Father?²⁷

So then loved ones, we must awaken ourselves from our wealthy Midwestern comfort, and sincerely consider, Do I possess this supernatural righteousness of Christ? Have I received God's gracious entrance into His kingdom? Does my righteousness exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees?²⁸

A right understanding of God's righteousness from the first 7 Beatitudes will give me a right understanding of my relationship with society according to **Matthew 5:10-12**.

Do I expect that Christ's righteousness in me will cost me something in this world? How do I respond to unjust words and actions towards me that I have not deserved? And how is possible to obey this command in **verse 12**, and sincerely *rejoice and be glad* when encountering

²³ C.f. 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

²⁴ Philippians 1:21

²⁵ Philippians 1:23

²⁶ 2 Timothy 2:12

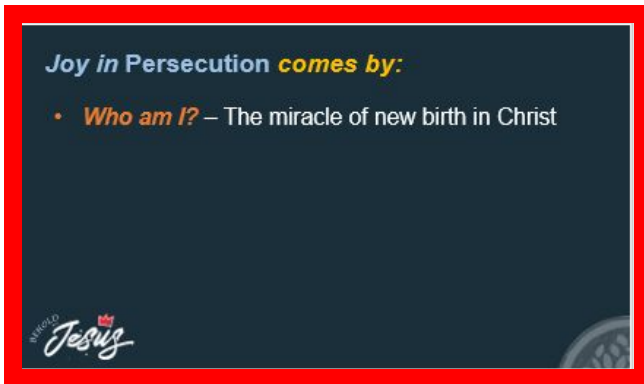
²⁷ Mark 10:29-30

²⁸ Matthew 5:20 – the main point of the entire Sermon on the Mount

such persecution from my own family members,²⁹ or my coworkers at the shop, or my classmates in the school who mock my integrity and purity?



Well very quickly, I believe we may cultivate **Joyful responses to Persecution by** considering our answers to three important questions. First,



Who am I? Have I personally experienced **The miracle of new birth in Christ?**

The natural person who is under the control of the spirit of this age will never be glad for suffering for Christ. It's an utter impossibility. The flesh will always retaliate, and then become resentful. It is not possible for man-made righteousness to be able to fake this highest expression of true righteousness in Christ's Beatitudes. Only those whose tongues and hearts are controlled by God's Spirit will rejoice and leap for joy in their excitement that they are counted worthy to suffer for the sake of Christ!³⁰

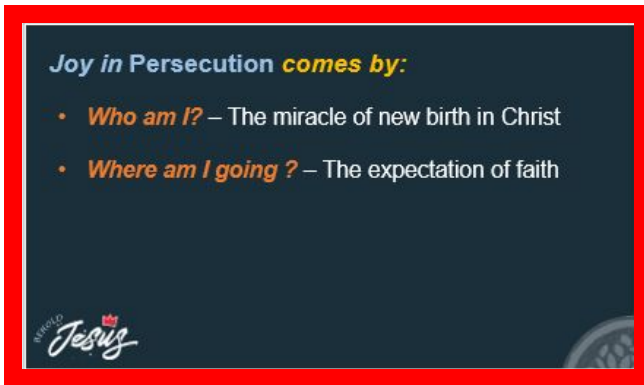
By the way – are you getting the picture that Christianity is not something that you can just work harder to attain? Christianity is never about trying harder, or suppressing the old nature. It's about conversion. Being born again! Receiving a new heart which sincerely loves Christ and treasures Christ more than anything else in this world!! This is a righteousness that is entirely different from man-made religion. This is a supernatural relationship where you are eternally united with King Jesus Himself! Will you believe in Him today? Will you finally lay down all your self-effort and self-reliance? Will you come in repentance and believe that Jesus is your righteousness and your sanctification and your future?³¹ Will you today believe that Jesus is truly greater than anything you could ever accomplish or offer?

You will never respond to persecution with joy until you have complete assurance that your identity is in Christ through the miraculous work of His saving grace. And then second, a joyful response to persecution requires that you have great understanding regarding,

²⁹ Matthew 10:35-37
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³⁰ Acts 5:41

³¹ 1 Corinthians 1:30-31



Where am I going? Rejoicing when you suffer for the sake of your Christlikeness is only possible when you have an eternal perspective. When you possess **The expectation of faith** – and you are confident that this world is not your home, and you are confident that heaven is forever, and you are confident that these momentary afflictions are chained to an eternal weight of glory that is far greater than any suffering here below.³²

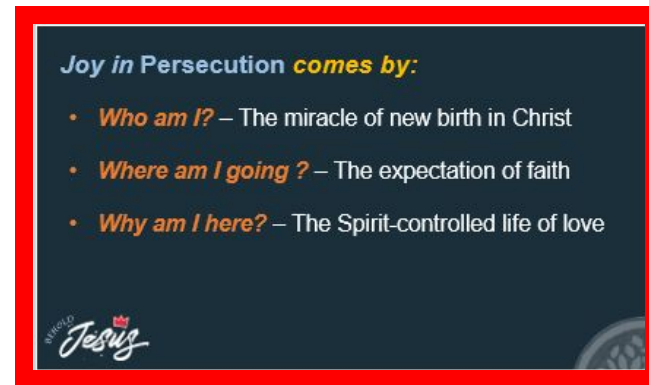
It is your eternal perspective that reminds you that no persecution –however severe – can separate you from the love of Christ.³³ Though this world may take your goods, and your health, and your companionship, and your reputation – no one can ever take Jesus from you – and you know where you are going!! He has sealed a shipping label on your soul that says “Destination: Heaven!” You don’t expect this world to satisfy your longings or approve of your eternal vision.

It is the miracle of your new birth in Christ and the expectation of your faith that fuels supernatural rejoicing

³² 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

³³ Romans 8:31ff

when you are persecuted for righteousness’ sake. Yet there’s one more important question to answer today:



Why am I here? Why does God have me on this planet right now at this place for such a time as this? Once you understand that your earthly purpose is the glory of God, then you will understand God has purchased you with His blood in order that you might live **The Spirit-controlled life of love**. You are not your own. You live to resemble Your Heavenly Father on this earth. Christian - you are not called to live safe. You are called to live holy. You are on this earth today so that the world who hates Jesus might better see the love of Jesus through your life and actions.

Therefore, when you have a right understanding of your identity, your future, and your purpose – you will be able to rejoice and yes, even be exceedingly glad that you are given the privilege to share in the fellowship of Christ’s sufferings.³⁴

³⁴ Philippians 3:10



Certainly **Jesus' kingdom blessings belong to the persecuted.**

And these blessings are great. Eternal. Supernatural. For King Jesus grants us a true righteousness that could never be achieved through any human effort or mand-made religion. Jesus has graciously made all things well inside of us.

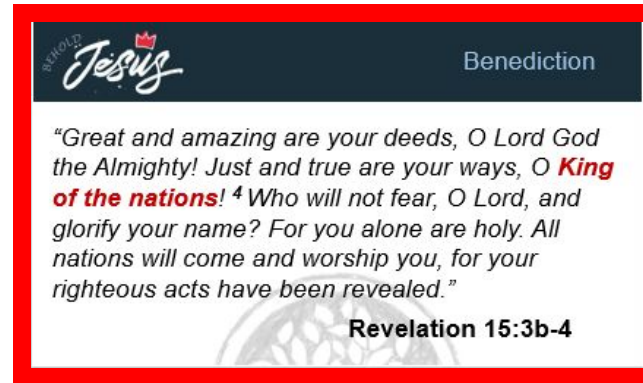


Let's pray that He will give us the grace to glorify Him as we pursue greater practical experience of His righteousness this week.

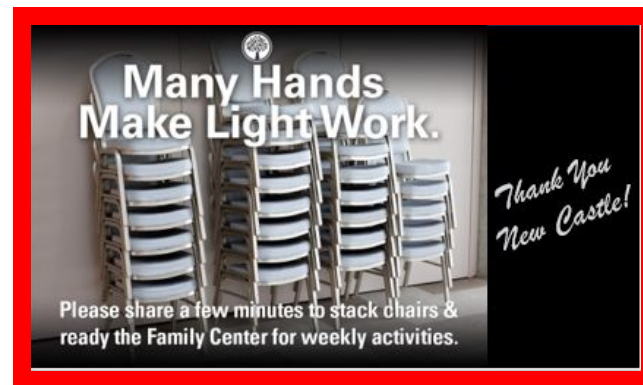
<<It is Well with My Soul>>

Exit Offering for A&J in North Africa

Let's pray our benediction together as we dismiss.



Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.
Revelation 15:3b-4



Recommended Resources on The Persevering Power of Right Expectations:

- Proverbs 24:10
- Daniel 9:24-27
- Luke 6:22-23, 26
- John 15:18-20
- Acts 5:41
- 2 Corinthians 4:17-18
- Galatians 4:29
- Ephesians 6:13
- Philippians 1:29
- 1 Thessalonians 3:3-4
- 2 Thessalonians 1:5-7
- 2 Timothy 3:11-12
- Hebrews 10:34
- James 1:2-4
- 1 Peter 3:14-18; 4:14-16

- <http://www.newcityindy.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/07/Upside-Down-Kingdom.Tim-Keller.pdf>
- <https://www.tvresources.net/resource-library/sermons/blessings-and-woes>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/slain-in-the-shadow-of-the-almighty>
- <https://www.persecution.com/>

- *Shadow of the Almighty*, Elizabeth Elliot
- *Foxe: Voices of the Martyrs*, John Foxe
- *The Triumphant Church*, Wurmbrand, Piper, & Martin

- “Present Pain, Eternal Gain” sermon on Luke 6:17-26 preached at NCBC on 11/5/2017
- “How to Think about Suffering” sermon on 1 Peter 4:12-19 preached at NCBC on 9/23/2018

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Matthew 5:10-11. We live during a time when every group of every kind believes they are being persecuted by others. What is the reason for being persecuted in this text? Have you ever experienced this kind of persecution? Humbly consider 2 Timothy 3:12 and give an answer for why you might receive different treatment than Christ Himself received.
2. Note how often Luke uses the word “now” in Luke 6:20-26. Contrast the power of the “now” kingdom, and the power of the “then” kingdom in this text. Which kingdom are you living for? How does your money and time with other people evidence your true kingdom loyalty?
3. Read Hebrews 13:3 and 1 Peter 4:12-14. Spend time praying together for our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world.
4. What brings you the greatest joy? Read Matthew 5:12, Acts 5:41, 1 Peter 4:13 and Revelation 19:7. What can we learn from these Scriptures about the controlling treasure of our hearts? How is it possible for you to grow in your joyful exultation of Christ, even while you are suffering for His Name’s sake?
5. Notice Matthew 5:3 and 5:10 both promise the same reward – thus creating an inclusion that means everything between is descriptive of those who have received entrance into God’s kingdom. Share your favorite beatitude and why. What’s one thing you want

to remember from this study of these beatitudes this summer?