

October 28, 2018

Speaker: Tim McCardel

Message Series: Finding... Joy

Today's Message: Happiness Thru Persecution

James 1:2 *"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds."*

Matthew 5:10-12

John 15:19

Three Truths:

1) The persecuted are happy because they are being _____ for heaven.

2) Persecution is one of the natural _____ of being a true Christ-Follower.

1 Peter 5:10 *"The God of all grace, who has called us into His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered awhile, make you perfect, establish, strengthen, settle you."*

3) Following Christ generates real hostility in our world; Kingdom people are _____ people.

2 Timothy 3:12 *"All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."*

1 Thessalonians 3:4 *"For indeed when we were with you, we kept telling you... that we were going to suffer..."*

#1. The _____ of Persecution

Matthew 5:10, 11 *"Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake... when men shall revile you and persecute you, and shall say all kinds of evil against you falsely..."*

Matthew 5:12 *"Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets..."*

"Be Glad" - literally—to skip and jump with happy excitement, a _____ to trust and obey.

Two Reasons To Rejoice:

1. "Your reward in heaven is great" - whatever we do serving and loving God and therefore loving people—and _____ for Him—reaps eternal rewards.

2. When we suffer for Christ—we are in the best company.

Hebrews 11:36-38

#2. Three Followers of God—_____ For Heaven

1) Ezekiel—a prophet sent to suffer, to speak God's word to Israel who refuses to listen to God.

Ezekiel 2:1-8 **Ezekiel will:** eat a scroll, lock himself in his house, be bound with ropes, become a mute, lie on his left side for 390 days...

Ezekiel 3:14, 15 **Ezekiel** was bitter, enraged, angry and astonished

Romans 8:18 *"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."*

2) **Daniel**—served Babylon for over 70 years—very faithfully—yet instead of reward—thrown into the lions den: his crime—praying to God.

Daniel 1:8 **Daniel** resolved that he would not defile himself with the kings food...

Daniel 2:13 *"... and they sought Daniel and his companions to kill them."*

Daniel 3:18, 19

3) **Paul**—Philippians 1:12-14 *"... what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel... it has become known thru the whole imperial guard... that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most have become confident in the Lord... are much more bold to speak the word without fear."*

2 Timothy 4:14-18

The Main Thing: *"... so that thru me the message might be fully proclaimed..."*