

## Christian Persecution

### I. Introduction

- A. Raise your hand if you experience any persecution for being a Christian (including online)?
- B. Has anyone experienced more than verbal persecution?
- C. Why are most afraid to discuss politics, even on moral issues?
- D. When do you think physical persecution will come to the U.S.?
- E. Rate your Christian suffering or persecution (1-10, where 1 is none, 5 is average, and 10 is torturous death).
- F. For those above 5, why are you above average in your Christian persecution?
- G. For those below 5, why are you below average in your Christian persecution?
- H. Why won't or don't we overflow the truth in our life?

- I. Does anyone have a story of persecution they are willing to share?



### II. Scripture

- A. Suffering/persecution for being godly.
  - 1. **2Ti. 3:12**—"*Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*"
  - 2. **1Th. 2:15**—"*Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men.*"
- B. Blessings when persecuted for being godly.
  - 1. **Mat. 5:10-12**—"10-*Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* 11-*Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake.* 12-*Rejoice and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*"

2. **1Pe. 3:14**—"But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled."

C. Christians Need Not Fear Persecution.

1. **2Ti. 1:7**—"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."
2. **Rom. 8:15**—"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."
3. **Deu. 31:6**—"Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, He it is that doth go with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."
4. **Jos. 1:9**—"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."
5. **Psa. 31:24**—"Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD."
6. **Act 4:29, 31**—"29-And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto Thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak Thy Word. 31-And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the Word of God with boldness."

D. Is it Loving to Speak Up or Shut up?

1. **Pro. 6:23**—"For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life."
2. **Pro. 9:8-9**—"8-Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee. 9-Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning."
3. **Pro. 27:5-6**—"5-Open rebuke is better than secret love. 6-Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful."

4. **Pro. 28:23**—"*He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favor than he that flattereth with the tongue.*"
5. **Lev. 19:17**—"*Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbor, and not suffer sin upon him.*"
6. **Psa. 141:5**—"*Let the righteous smite me; it shall be a kindness: and let him reprove me; it shall be an excellent oil, which shall not break my head: for yet my prayer also shall be in their calamities.*"
7. **Tit. 1:13**—"*This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith.*"
8. **Rev 3:19**—"*As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.*"

### III. Application

- A. When is a time we might delay speaking up?
- B. Do you believe it is loving to tell someone the truth about Jesus, about good and bad, about helpful truths, even if it hurts them initially?
- C. Will you care enough to speak up even if politically bullied?
- D. What is a specific way to speak up more for the truth or Christ this week?