

### ✓ That's what they told others to expect.

(Even just being a follower of Jesus may result in persecution.)

Those who try to live a godly life because they believe in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

But evil people and phony preachers will go from bad to worse as they mislead people and are themselves misled.

2 Tim. 3:12-13 (GW)

"We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," [the apostles] said.

Acts 14:22b (NIV)

(Why? Because many people will be intolerant to truth.)

... a time when people will not tolerate sound teaching.

2 Timothy 4:3b (NET)

### ✓ That's what Jesus said would happen.

They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God.

John 16:2 (NIV)

And everyone will hate you because of your allegiance to me. Matthew 10:22a (NLT)

(He said they would be treated the way he was treated.)

Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.

John 15:20 (NIV)



### \* THE APOSTLES SEEMED TO THINK ... \*



4. Persecution for telling others the Good News - or for simply following Jesus – was not the final end.

... heirs of God and coheirs with Christ—if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Romans 8:17b (CSB)

✓ Jesus told them it was not the final end.

But those who endure to the end will be saved.

Matthew 10:22b (NLT)

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

John 16:33 (NIV)

✓ Persecution and trials are one of the ways that God separates GENUINE from FAKE believers.

FAKE:

They believe for a while, but when their faith is tested, they abandon it.

Luke 8:13b (GW)

**GENUINE:** 

But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.

Hebrews 10:39 (NIV)

The other way of separating them has to do with their focus: on God or on the world's worries, riches and pleasures (Luke 8:14). Many will claim to love God, but will give their attention to the world (1 John 2:15-17).

### ✓ Knowing these things should influence our attitude.

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.

But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

1 Peter 4:12-13 (NIV)

### (This is how the apostles responded.)

... rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer dishonor for the name of Jesus.

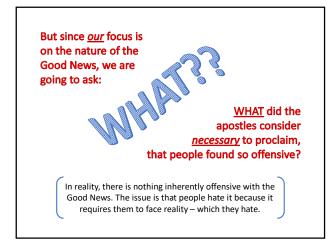
Acts 5:41b (NLT)

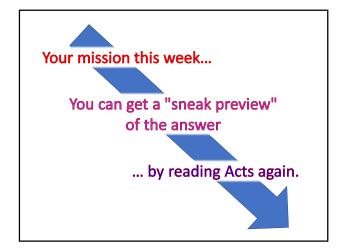
We could ask...

GOD OWES ME LIFE, LIBERTY AND HAPPINESS!

WHY do so many of today's church-goers think and preach the opposite?

WHY are they so committed to revising the Good News, so that it promotes the things they value instead of what God values?





# YES... YOU MAY GET PERSECUTED IF YOU TELL OTHERS THE GOOD NEWS.

### But consider the benefits!

- FOR THEM... Genuine salvation! (If they repent.)
  - FOR YOU... Less sinning!

A changed attitude toward sin.

Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin.

1 Peter 4:1 (NIV)

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