

(#51)
Why the persecution?

WHAT
was it that the
apostles considered
necessary to proclaim,
that people found so offensive?

- There is nothing inherently offensive with the Good News. The Good News is entirely <u>truthful</u>.
- But it requires people to face reality and <u>reality is</u> what people hate.

WHEN PEOPLE ARE LIVING A <u>LIE</u>, THERE IS NO WAY TO "SUGAR-COAT" THE TRUTH TO MAKE IT SOUND PLEASING.

WHO is living a lie?

Every human on the surface of the earth – religious or not – until they repent and surrender to Jesus.

It's NOT a matter of "sharing opinions" and then "deciding for yourself" which you prefer. God has spoken, and <u>all</u> of us need to change. Those of us who <u>do</u> change need to let others know what God has said.



YOU'RE WELCOME TO ACCEPT MY VIEW... OR NOT... EITHER WAY, THAT'S OK. ITS JUST THE WAY I SEE THINGS. Does it <u>really</u> matter?

YES - it matters FOREVER.

... all liars will find themselves in the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

This is the second death.

... no liars will ever enter [God's eternal city]. Only those whose names are written in the lamb's Book of Life will enter it.

Outside [the city] are... all who lie in what they say and what they do.

Rev. 21:8b, 27b; 22:15 (GW)

- The truth issues are not a matter of <u>OPINION</u>, like having an argument over an obscure word in an uncertain text.
- They are a matter of <u>FACT</u>, based on clear statements found in many Scripture passages.

THE PROBLEM IS... PEOPLE TEND TO PREFER A LIE.

- $\checkmark\,$ The God of the Bible created all things.
 - To say differently is to <u>lie</u>.
- ✓ God created male and female, and defined marriage.

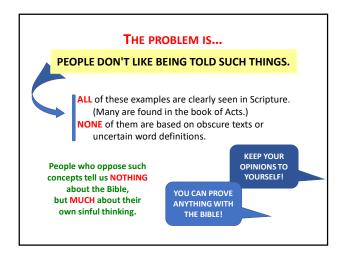
 To say differently is to <u>lie</u>.
- ✓ Every other "god" is a human invention.
 - To say differently is to <u>lie</u>.
- ✓ The Old Testament <u>clearly</u> identifies who Jesus is.

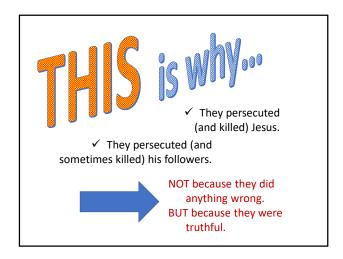
 To say differently is to <u>lie</u>.
- ✓ Jesus is by nature God, and he has taken on the nature of a human. To say differently is to *lie*.
- ✓ The religious leaders of Jesus' day murdered Jesus (with the help of others). To say differently is to <u>lie</u>.

- ✓ Jesus' corpse did not decompose; instead, it came back to life. To say differently is to <u>lie</u>.
- ✓ Right now, Jesus is (physically) sitting at the right hand of God. To say differently is to lie.
- ✓ Jesus will return to earth to judge $\underline{\mathit{all}}$ people.

To say differently is to $\underline{\it lie}$.

- ✓ Until you repent of your ways, you are living in sin and are an enemy of God. To say differently is to <u>lie</u>.
- ✓ Your religious views have no value in God's presence... only what <u>God</u> says matters. To say differently is to <u>lie</u>.
- ✓ Until you submit to what Scripture says, your views about life are false. To say differently is to <u>lie</u>.
- ✓ If you are not following Jesus, you are wicked and you will perish.
 To say differently is to <u>lie</u>.





Remember the words I [Jesus] spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. John 15:20a (NIV) Yes, and everyone who wants The Jews began to to live a godly life in Christ Jesus persecute Jesus ... will suffer persecution. John 5:16a (GW) 2 Tim. 3:12 (NIT) We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. 2 Cor. 4:8-10 (NIV)

PERSECUTION ALSO CAME FOR OTHER REASONS
(THOUGH STILL RELATED TO SPEAKING THE TRUTH).

Religious leaders (and their followers) got jealous.
People chose to follow Jesus instead of them.

But the Jewish leaders were jealous, so they gathered some worthless fellows from the streets to form a mob and start a riot.

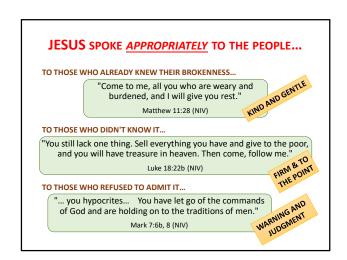
Acts 17:5a (NLT)

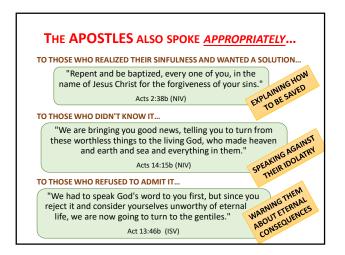
People who profited from sin got angry.
They lost money when people chose to follow Jesus.

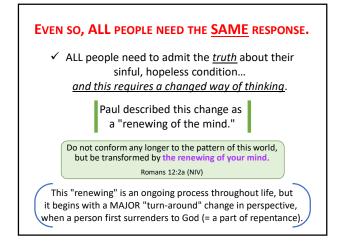
... a silversmith who had a large business manufacturing silver shrines of the Greek goddess Artemis. ... "Gentlemen, you know that our wealth comes from this business. ... Paul has persuaded many people that handmade gods aren't gods at all." At this their anger boiled, ...

Acts 19:24b, 25b, 26b, 28a (NLT)

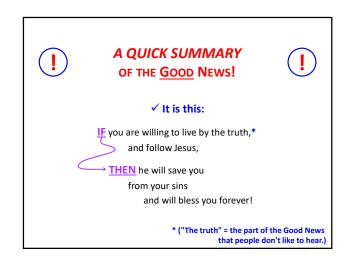
I WAS TOLD THAT **TRUTH MUST BE SPOKEN JESUS ALWAYS** SPOKE KINDLY AND **DIFFERENT WAYS TO GENTLY TO PEOPLE! DIFFERENT PEOPLE...** WRONG! Those who say differently have selectively picked what they want ... what their itching ears to believe, and have closed want to hear. their eyes to the rest of 2 Tim. 4:3b (NIV) what Scripture says. Jesus DIDN'T always speak kindly and gently... he spoke APPROPRIATELY - and there's a big difference between these two.

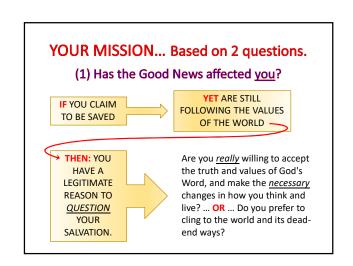












(2) Are you willing to be involved, so that the Good News will affect others?

✓ To speak appropriately for the situation – knowing that the situation (and what needs said) will vary.

And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?

Romans 10:14b (NLT)

✓ To not be surprised if people treat you the way they treated Jesus.

Brothers and sisters, don't be surprised if the world hates you.

1 John 3:13 (GW)

We don't need to <u>create</u> offenses. Being truthful is enough to offend those who hate the truth.

* Speak the TRUTH! *

Those who hate the truth will be offended. But those who want salvation will rejoice!

- ✓ The only way to NOT offend the wicked is to NOT speak the truth.
- ✓ In doing so, you will lead astray those who <u>WANT</u> saved.

By NOT speaking the truth, you will become like these religious leaders...

You travel over land and sea to make a single convert, and when this happens you make him twice as fit for hell as you are.

Mat 23:15b (ISV)

Credits

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