

# Blessed Are Those Who Are Persecuted



The final two beatitudes are linked together by a common theme of suffering. Having described the character of one who is in the kingdom, Jesus now shows the consequences that comes to those kingdom citizens. Following peacemakers comes the persecuted. This is the reaction from the world towards the Lord's people. Their only crime is living righteously in an unrighteous world. Jesus is being honest in what will happen. Kingdom citizens will suffer.

## A. It's hard for us to fully grasp the persecution that followed the disciples of Jesus

- it started with Jewish jealousy and evolved into a hatred by Rome
- that persecution took the lives of nearly all the apostles, Stephen, Antipas

1. Jesus warned His disciples that they would be hated (Mt 10:21-22; Jn 15:18, 25)  
- 1 Thes 3:3-4 ; 2 Tim 3:13; Phil 1:29
2. Jesus expected His disciples not to \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt. 5:39)  
He left an example of what to \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Pet 2:20-23)  
He wanted His disciples to do \_\_\_\_\_ to their enemies (Rom 12:20)  
He wanted His disciples to \_\_\_\_\_ for their enemies (Mt 5:44) and the government so they could live peaceful lives (1 Tim 2:1-3)

### The Persecution Arose From:

1. Loving \_\_\_\_\_ (Jn 3:19-20)
2. Jews believing that they were stamping out \_\_\_\_\_
3. Unwillingness to accept the principles and concept of truth
4. Satan's \_\_\_\_\_ with God's people (Rev 12:17)

### Truth by it's nature is:

- \_\_\_\_\_ rather than inclusive
- \_\_\_\_\_ rather than broad
- \_\_\_\_\_ by God and not man

3. Persecution comes in many forms

## B. Peter repeats this blessing (1 Pet 3:14; 4:14-16)

- What helped the persecuted was realizing that they were noticed as being one belonging to Christ
- They realized that the persecution was \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Cor 4:16-18)
- They knew what was \_\_\_\_\_ them (Rom 8:18)

- The pressure of Persecution causes some to \_\_\_\_\_ the message and their behavior
- The pressure of persecution causes the church to \_\_\_\_\_ down the message and move toward a \_\_\_\_\_ position of accepting some things that are wrong

This may stop the persecution and eliminate the cause for it, but in so doing one \_\_\_\_\_ the "blessing of God"

## C. The blessing, "For theirs is the kingdom of Heaven," is the same as in the first beatitude (the poor in spirit).

- The kingdom belongs to those who will not flinch in the flames of opposition (Rev 12:11)