

Afflicted But Not Defeated

Acts 8:1-3

December 3, 2023 | Jason Elvington, College Minister

Big Idea: Even when the church is opposed and afflicted, God's kingdom will grow.

I. Because we are united to Christ, the church will face opposition.

John 15:20 | Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

1 Peter 4:12-14 | 12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

Apply:

- Pray for persecuted and suffering Christians
- Process opposition in perspective
- Approach opposition with humility

II. God will preserve His church and save the lost.

Apply:

- Trust God because He loves you
- Repent and believe

III. Some who oppose the Gospel today will proclaim the Gospel tomorrow.

Apply:

- Pray and love those who consider us their “enemies”
- Share the Gospel in hope

Benediction

1 Timothy 1:16-17 | 16 But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. 17 To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.