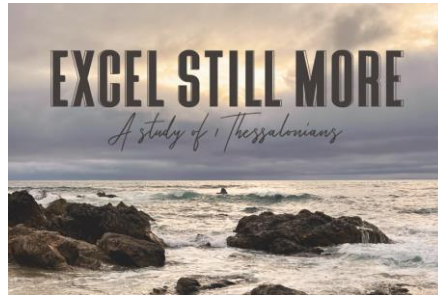


DISCIPLE'S QUEST

*If you continue in My word, then you are
truly disciples of Mine.*

John 8:31



October 1, 2023

1 Thessalonians 2:14-16

Opposition Part 1

Main Idea:

Faithfulness to Christ often brings the believer opposition from the world and even hardship and persecution. Although the initial human impulse might be to compromise to avoid this, energized by the Lord's work in his life, the believer is able to remain faithful and to rest in God's complete sovereignty.

Outline:

3 Truths about opposition in the Christian life

1. Opposition is often the result of authentic faith in Jesus.
2. Opposition sometimes comes through unexpected and heartbreaking sources.
3. Regardless of the opposition that we may experience, even when it turns to rejection and persecution, God remains completely sovereign.

Questions for further contemplation and application after the message:

#1 Why does authentic faith in Christ mark the believer out for persecution from the unbelieving world?

#2 In the message, Pastor Vaughn suggested that to the degree that you obediently live out your faith in Christ you will likely experience opposition in return measure. Do you agree? Why or why not?

#3 In 2:14, Paul compares the Thessalonian church to the church at Jerusalem. Why was that a complement?

#4 In what ways do believers and churches sometimes compromise with the world and why?

Why is worldly compromise a poor strategy for Christian living?

#5 Have you ever experienced persecution in any form from a friend or loved one for your faith?

How did you respond?

Can bearing up when persecuted actually be positive? In what way/ways?

#6 How can our contemplation of God's sovereignty in all things strengthen us to persevere through hardship?