

First Baptist Church – Odessa

Pastor Byron McWilliams

Date: _____

“THE COMING PERSECUTION”

“Matthew 24 and the End of the Age” - Pt. 4

Matthew 24:9-14 & Selected

“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake.”

Matthew 24:9

Persecution is Coming because...

I. Jesus declared that it was sure to come.

“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation....” Vs. 9a

“They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God.”

John 16:2

“If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.” John 15:20b

II. Worldly authorities reject the truth of Christianity.

“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation....” Vs. 9a

“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, ‘O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.’” Daniel 3:16-18

“But Peter and John answered them, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.’” Acts 4:19-20

“But Peter and the apostles answered, ‘We must obey God rather than men.’” Acts 5:29

III. Persecution plays a very important role in the Church.

“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake.” Vs. 9

Jesus said, “I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” Matthew 16:18b

Why would Jesus allow His Church to be persecuted?

1) Persecution purges the church of false believers.

“And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.” Vs. 10

2) Persecution purifies the church of liberal beliefs.

“And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.” Vs. 11

3) Persecution deepens the convictions of true believers.

“And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.” Vs. 12

4) Persecution aids Christians in identifying with Christ!

“But the one who endures to the end will be saved.” Vs. 13

5) Persecution is a primary means for exalting Jesus!

“And this Gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations and then the end will come.” Vs. 14

“...as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” Philippians 1:20-21