

Theme: “Are you willing to persevere and die for Jesus Christ and the Gospel?”

Main Text: John 15:18–22 (NKJV) ¹⁸ “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 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 keep yours also. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.

Jesus tells us several things in this passage: 1) the world hated Me (Jesus) so you know it is going to hate you. 2) If they persecuted Me (Jesus) they will also persecute you. 3) Because Jesus chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you, 4) Because Jesus came and spoke to them, now they know their sin.

Introduction: In a world increasingly resistant to truth, the call to persevere for the gospel is not just noble—it’s necessary. The message of Jesus Christ is life-giving, yet proclaiming it often invites hardship, rejection, and even persecution. Still, we press on (Philippians 3:14). Jesus told us that persecution is coming. We live in a world full of hate and bitterness (2 Timothy 3:1-5) and if you disagree with someone or have a different opinion and you are of a different ethnic background, you must be racist!! We hear this all the time, but the reality is this, if you have a different view than someone else, you are considered a threat to their agenda. The word of God is truth, and it will always be the truth and will always be attacked as hate speech or extremist ideology by a diverse group

of people. There will always be those who take scripture out of context to fit their agenda as well as manipulating social media for their own selfish gains. Are you prepared to go through perseverance even to the point of death for the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

1. Your Light must shine in every situation especially in the darkest of the most corrupt places.

- a. John 8:12 (NKJV) ¹² Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life.”
 - i. This is a mandate that God has given, and Jesus Christ confirmed.
 - ii. Anything that contradicts God’s Words in a direct confrontation so if one walks and lives contrary to sound doctrine then he or she is walking in darkness!
- b. Matthew 5:13–16 (NKJV) ¹³ “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
 - i. You are the salt of the earth. Salt is a preservative.
 - ii. You are the light of the world that cannot be hidden, nor do you hide that you are a disciple of Christ Jesus even in the face of adversity even to death.
 - iii. Your good works men should see and then glorify your Father in heaven.

- c. Luke 11:33–36 (NKJV) ³³ “No one, when he has lit a lamp, puts *it* in a secret place or under a basket, but on a lampstand, that those who come in may see the light.
³⁴ The lamp of the body is the eye. Therefore, when your eye is good, your whole body also is full of light. But when *your eye* is bad, your body also is full of darkness.
³⁵ Therefore take heed that the light which is in you is not darkness. ³⁶ If then your whole body *is* full of light, having no part dark, *the whole body* will be full of light, as when the bright shining of a lamp gives you light.”
 - i. Lamp of the body is the eye.
 - ii. Take heed that the light which is in you is not darkness. (Professing, proclaiming and contradicting the word of God but speaking, acting and living contrary to the word of God.

2. **Scripture is clear: Perseverance is a mark of True**

Discipleship. Paul exhorts Timothy to “preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season” (2 Timothy 4:2),

- a. 2 Timothy 4:2 (NKJV) ² Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.
- b. The Gospel and the Truth of the word of God must be proclaimed regardless of cultural climate or personal comfort.
- c. Paul himself endured beatings, shipwrecks, and imprisonment (2 Corinthians 11:23–28), yet he never wavered. His life was a living testimony to the power of endurance fueled by love for Christ.

3. Perseverance will bring Strength Beyond Ourselves

- a. Perseverance in gospel work isn't sustained by sheer willpower—it's empowered by the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:8 declares, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be My witnesses...". This divine strength enables ordinary people to do extraordinary things for the kingdom.
- b. Psalm 121:1–2 (NKJV) ¹I will lift up my eyes to the hills—
From whence comes my help? ²My help *comes* from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.
- c. Your help will always come from the Lord. He will manifest himself in various ways and some of those ways are through people.

4. Are you willing to be the grain of wheat that falls to the ground and dies so others can live?

- a. John 12:23–26 (NKJV) ²³ But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. ²⁴ Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. ²⁵ He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him *My* Father will honor.
- b. Grain is dormant and dead to itself until it is buried, watered and cultivated. Once this happens life begins to emerge from this dormant seed to produce a multitude just like it that brings life to many.
- c. The apostles, threatened and arrested, boldly declared, "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). Despite

persecution, they continued teaching daily (Acts 5:42). Stephen, the first martyr, preached with unwavering conviction even as stones fell upon him. These stories aren't just history—they're fuel for our present-day mission.

- d. The Bible, the word of God that we hold in our hands is considered by many to be hate speech. But the words that we speak are life and truth and many just hate what we speak and stand for.
 - i. John 6:63 (NKJV)⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life.
 - ii. Don't allow your emotions to cause you to contradict the word of God and become null and void. It's the Spirit of God that gives life and the words of God brings truth. (John 14:6, Hebrews 13:8)
 - iii. We are surrounded by a "great cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1), urging us to run with endurance. When trials come, we remember James 1:12: "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life...". The gospel is worth every sacrifice, every sleepless night, every misunderstood moment.
 - iv. There has been several misunderstood moments over the last couple of weeks.
 - 1. The assassination of Charlie Kirk, the people celebrating someone being murdered, clips of videos being manipulated together to generate a narrative as a racist individual. All of this is demonic. Be careful not to allow your emotions, your past life experiences, the

manipulating of situations, videos and out of context words to generate a false narrative as being truth and then you run with it. Do your research. The assassination of Charlie Kirk has started a revival of young people all over the United States of America on College Campuses, Middle and High Schools, in Mexico, South Korea and the United Kingdom. 11,200 chapters of Turning Point USA in college campuses and after the assassination there were 35,000 applications to have Turning Point Chapters in college campuses all over the United States. Whatever the media is portraying of him being a racist, fascist, or communist, there is a revival that is spreading, and it is including multi-ethnicities, multi-generations and in multiple countries. Satan's response to the outbreak of revival: sow lies chaos and division. God's response, thousands being saved and the Gospel being preached with convictions, salvations and restorations. HPC will not be silent, we will always speak truth, the word of God and stand against anything that 'CONTEXTUALLY' contradicts God's Words. (Example: Myself being labeled a racist during the BLM Movement, 2020)

2. There were two men found hanging in Cleveland and Vicksburg Mississippi. Tre Reed, 21-year-old African American student from Delta State University and Cory Zukatis, a White/Anglo American. The initial Coroner's Report said there is no defensive wounds,

broken bones, etc... and declared it a suicide in both but there are ongoing investigations. Because of Mississippi's past history there are many who are generating narratives to fuel division, hate and turmoil.

3. Minnesota school shooting August 27, 2025.
4. Mass shooting Monday September 15, Minneapolis 5 hurt.
5. Chicago School Shooting outside, 3 killed, one was the Assistant Principal.
6. 5 Officers Shot executing a warrant.
7. 109 children rescued and 244 arrest made in a child exploitation ring.

Conclusion: I know there are many who are tired, have been mistreated for your color of your skin, your individual ideologies, the word of God and even being in a mixed-race marriages and relationships. But let us not grow weary in doing good (Galatians 6:9). Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. And let us persevere—not for recognition, but for redemption. Our country needs redemption. The gospel is too precious to be silenced, and too powerful to be abandoned especially because of the foolishness we see happening in our country and beyond. Let us be loud full of compassion and love confronting the things that need to be confronted and nurturing the things that need nurturing.