

The Gospel of John
What Price Will You Pay? - John 15:18-27

Intro: When have you used these words, "I am not going to pay that price?" What price are you willing to pay to be a follower of Christ? hatred, persecution, opposition?

I. The _____ of Opposition – John 15:18-20

A. _____ by the World John 15:18, 19, 23, 24, 25

B. _____ by the World – 15:20

Reality - As we follow Christ and do not compromise our faith, opposition through hatred and persecution is possible.

II. The _____ for Opposition – "Chosen" – John 15:16-24

A. To Bear _____ – 15:16

B. Out of the _____ – 15:19 (Romans 12:2)

C. To _____ Jesus – 15:20-24

Jesus was hated to the point of being put to death. If you are going to be a faithful follower of Christ, be prepared to pay a price for your commitment.

III. The _____ to Opposition – "Hope" – John 15:26-27

Hope is what keeps us from imploding when the pressure of opposition from the world becomes the price to be paid.

Hope keeps us going when _____ is demanded (Acts 4:23-31; 5:41).

Illustrate: Hope is to our lives what liquid chemicals is to Deep Sea fish. There is no pressure on earth that can crush hope.

Conclusion: Each of us makes decisions every day about prices we are willing to pay. Are you willing to pay the price that comes with making spiritual decisions, following Christ, abiding in Christ and in the Scriptures?

Jim Elliott – "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."

Small Group Study Questions
Develop

1. When is something that you think is too overpriced?

2. In your mind, have you faced some form of persecution or opposition because of your Christian faith?

Dig

1. Read John 15:18-20 - What does Jesus say the world will feel toward Christians? Why?

2. Read Galatians 5:16-23 – Compare the “fruit of the flesh” versus the “fruit of the Spirit.” What do you think the fruit of the Spirit reminds the world of?

3. Why would being chosen to bear good fruit, to not live like the world, and to serve Jesus be a cause of opposition from the world? Aren't these good things?

4. Read Acts 4:32-32; 5:41 - How does the early church serve a good model for us in the face of opposition?

5. Why is hope such a powerful force against the world's opposition to Christians?

6. What does the Spirit of God enable Christ followers to do?

Do

1. Personal Reflection – What is the greatest opposition that you may face? What can you do to remain strong should it come?

2. For Sharing – What is an important lesson that you learned from this message, and how can you apply it to your life?