



HOPE

Preparing for Persecution

1 Peter 3:13-17

* persecution - opposition we experience simply because we follow Jesus

Luke 6:22

Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and insult you, and scorn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man.

1. Recognize the opportunity for persecution. (vv.13-14a, 17)

Acts 5:41

So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name.

James 1:4

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Matthew 5:11-12

"Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

2. Fear God, not man. (v.14b-15a)

Proverbs 29:25

The fear of man brings a snare,
But he who trusts in the LORD will be exalted.

3. Be prepared to share the Good News. (vv.15b-16)

A. Gentleness (v.15)

B. Reverence (v.15)

C. A Clear Conscience (v.16)



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