

Simple Definition of Persecution: **“Persecution is the societal marginalization of believers with a view to eliminating their voice and influence.”** - Pastor, author, and former President of Moody Bible Institute, Paul Nyquist, from his book, *Prepare—Living Your Faith in an Increasingly Hostile Culture*

Principles:

When facing persecution, the Lord met the disciples at their point of need.

In God’s providence, persecution was catalytic, not catastrophic, in the life of the early Church!

Verses:

“And we know that God causes all things [including persecution] to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose” - Romans 8:28.

“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. - Matthew 5:11-12

“I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord... that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;” - Philippians 3:8, 10

“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.” - James 1:2-4

“If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you;” - John 15:18, 20

“All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution” - 2 Timothy 3:12.

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” - Philippians 4:13
