

## Sermon Eight: Living with an Eternal Perspective

“Blessed are the persecuted.” Why?

### John 3:16-21

We have to live by faith. We have to live with an eternal perspective. That means realizing that all this is temporary, we will leave all this behind, we are citizens of heaven, and if we live for what is eternal there is a great and eternal reward coming!

### Matthew 5:10-12

**Sometimes I am persecuted for doing the right thing.**

### Mark 3:1-6

What do they do?

- **Mock you:** You call yourself a Christian. Making fun of what you believe and how you live. If that does not get to you...
- **Lie about you:** You did the wrong thing.
- **Accuse you:** You are a bad person.

**2 Timothy 3:12**, “Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”

We have to decide, are we going to live to please people, or are we going to live to please God?

**How can I be one of God’s favorites?** If I invest in that relationship, it grows, we become best friends.

- a. Enjoy spending time with Him. “I don’t have time”
- b. Enjoy worshiping Him. “That’s not my personality”
- c. Enjoy giving to Him. “I cannot afford to give”
- d. Enjoy serving Him. “Selfish”
- e. Enjoy telling others about Him. “I don’t know what to say.”

The danger we have as Christians in Western culture is we have become so much like the world, we never experience any persecution at all. We are not supposed to reflect culture but shape it. We are salt and light.

- **2 Timothy 3:1-5**
- **1 John 2:15-17**

We cannot sell Jesus with the promise of a pain-free life.

- **John 10:10**
- **John 16:33b**, “Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”
- **John 15:18-20**,<sup>18</sup> “If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first.<sup>19</sup> The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you.<sup>20</sup> Do you remember what I

told you? 'A slave is not greater than the master.' Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you. And if they had listened to me, they would listen to you.

- **Matthew 24:9-14**,<sup>9</sup> "Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers."<sup>10</sup> And many will turn away from me and betray and hate each other.<sup>11</sup> And many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people.<sup>12</sup> Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold.<sup>13</sup> But the one who endures to the end will be saved.<sup>14</sup> And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations<sup>15</sup> will hear it; and then the end will come.
- **2 Corinthians 4:7-18**

What can we do?

**1. Be with Jesus.**

**2 Timothy 3:5**, "They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them holy."

**2. Become like Jesus.**

- Healing- Grace
- Identity- Truth
- Character- Community
- Vision- Serving

**3. Do what Jesus did.**

**Matthew 5:13-16**

*"He is no fool to give up what he cannot keep in order to gain what he cannot lose."*

-Jim Elliott

What is God saying to you? What are you going to do about it?

**Prayer:** Jesus, thank You for loving me and giving Your life for me. You left the comfort and safety of Heaven to rescue me from sin and death. Give me the courage and faith to live this way. Help me to love You, Your eternal kingdom, and people more than this world. I must sacrifice and if I have to suffer in order to follow You, help me to do so with grace and faith knowing that great is my reward in heaven. Jesus be glorified in me.