



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM JANUARY 27/28 SERMON

If you missed the sermon, check out [biblechapel.org/sermons](http://biblechapel.org/sermons).

1. Icebreaker for you this week to start ...what is your favorite winter activity? As a full-blooded Italian who dislikes the cold, my favorite activity is inside, eating homemade soup on a cold winter day. Kristen started “Soup Sundays” many years ago, the smell and taste of homemade soup on Sunday afternoons after church is a highlight of my week! How about you?
2. This past weekend we discussed Ezra 4, “Remnant lessons regarding Biblical persecution.” We say “Biblical,” because God’s Word is clear that bold obedience to Him will always lead to some form of opposition/persecution. To kick things off this week, has anyone recently in the group experienced “opposition/persecution” for their Christian faith?
3. Read as a group [Ezra 4:1-5, 24](#), then [John 15:18-20](#) and [2 Timothy 3:12](#). We stated this weekend:

## **Remnant lessons regarding Biblical persecution**

### **Bold obedience to God’s Word will always bring worldly opposition.**

The fact that starting with Jesus, God’s Word teaches clearly that living a Godly life of obedience will lead to persecution/opposition, how should that change our outlook when facing opposition for our faith in Christ?

On the flip side, if we were never experiencing opposition by the world as a local church, what would that tell us?

4. We also saw in Chapter 4, how Israel’s adversaries tried to oppose them first by infiltrating their community from within. Read [Genesis 3:1](#), [Matthew 7:15](#), [Romans 16:17-18](#) and [1 Timothy 6:20-21](#).

We said this weekend:

### Remnant lessons regarding Biblical persecution

**Satan's primary strategy is to infiltrate God's people from within, specifically, to doubt and deviate from God's Word.**

How does a local church protect itself from false teachers? Protect themselves from deviating from God's Word?

How does an individual believer protect their heart and mind from doubting or deviating from the absolute truth of God's Word?

5. In Chapter 3, Israel's fear caused them to run to God in obedience, not from Him. In Chapter 4, the relentless opposition eventually caused them in disobedience to stop rebuilding the temple for over a decade. We said this weekend:

### Remnant lessons regarding Biblical persecution

**Believers must anchor every decision in the truth of God's Word, not the shifting waves of fear and feelings.**

What are some specific areas in our current culture where churches/believers could be tempted to deviate/doubt God's Word to avoid opposition? Or to give in to their fears/feelings of how others might perceive/treat them?

This next one is more personal, but hoping we can open up to one another...have you ever experienced a decision where you had to decide between your own personal desires/fears/feelings that you knew at the moment were not aligned with what God's Word said on that situation? What ended up happening in that situation?

Read [1 John 4:18](#).

How do we have accountability measures to aid us in anchoring every decision in the truth of God's Word and not personal fear/feelings?