

“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.” 2Timothy 3:12



What does the Word of God tell us about the persecution to be expected by those who truly follow Christ as Lord?

John 15:20: “Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.”

John 16:33: “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

Philippians 1:29: “For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake.”

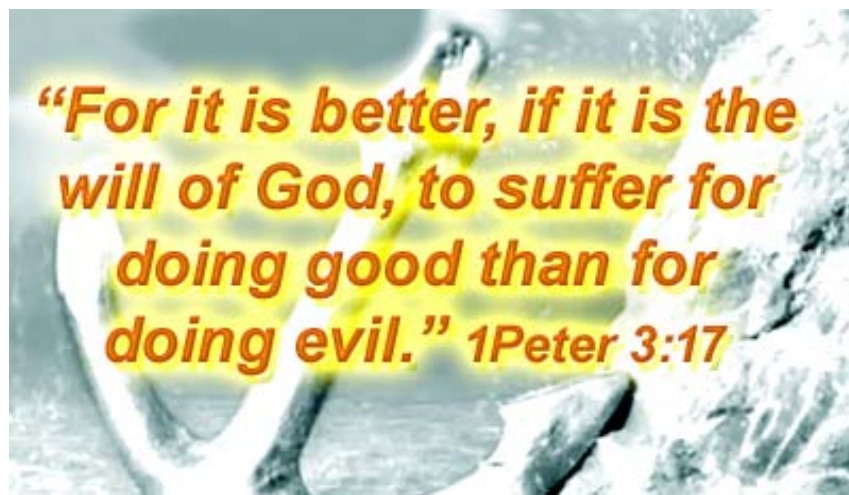
2Timothy 2:3-4: “You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.”

1Peter 4:12-13: “Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.”

Acts 14:22: “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.”

Do I understand and accept that to truly follow Christ, persecution will come, if it already hasn’t yet happened?

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Why can we expect persecution in living to follow Christ as Lord?

John 15:18-19: “If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world.”

John 17:14: “I have given them Your Word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.”

John 16:3-4: “These things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me. But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them.”

And the purpose is:

Philip. 2:14-15: “Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.”

1Peter 4:17: “For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it *begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?”

Matthew 5:11-12: “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven”

Am I ready to face persecution for following Christ?

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Why must we stand by faith in God through Christ, even through persecution and trials?

Psalm 23:4: “Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and Your staff protect and comfort me.”

Romans 8:37-39: “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

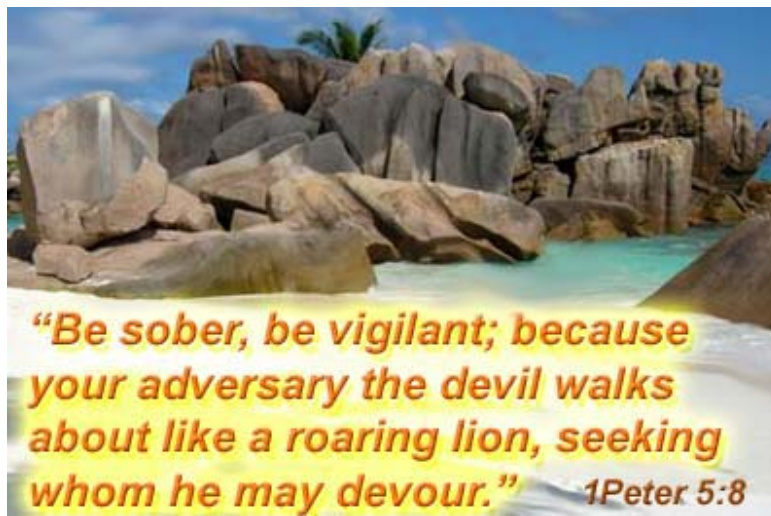
Luke 6:22-23: “Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile *you*, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man’s sake. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward *is* great in heaven.”

1Peter 4:14: “If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed *are you*, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.”

James 1:12: “Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.”

Am I ready and willing to stand by faith in Christ, even if I must face persecutions and trials?

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If we must face persecution for following Christ, what should our heart attitude be?

1Peter 4:1: "Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin."

Mat. 5:44: "I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you."

1Peter 3:15: "In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect."

Romans 12:17-18: "Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men."

Romans 12:14: "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse."

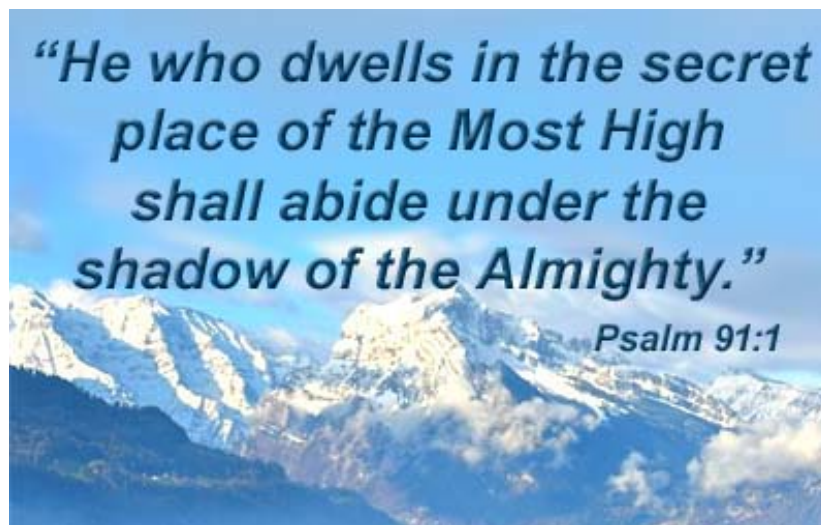
1Peter 4:16: "If you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name."

Why?

Rev. 3:11: "I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown."

Am I ready and determined to have the attitude of Christ, if I must face persecution for bearing His Name?

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What is the ultimate purpose, if we are to endure persecution to follow Christ?

James 1:2-4: "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

Romans 5:3-4: "We also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope."

Philippians 1:12-14: "I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the Word without fear."

Hebrews 12:3: "Consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls."

In suffering for Christ, our greatest joy comes from knowing:

Mark 13:13: "You will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved."

Do I understand the purpose for following Christ under any and all circumstances?

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