

“The Church Suffers”
Acts 4:1-31

I. When Jesus is preached, persecution will arise (vs. 1-4).

- A. The Scriptures teach that believers will suffer persecution.
- B. The world system hates God and His people.

(John 3:19-20; 15:18-20; 16:11; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:1-2; 12-13)

II. When persecution arises, it is an opportunity to represent Jesus (vs. 5-22).

(Matthew 10:16-20; 1 Peter 2:18-23)

III. When believers represent Christ during persecution, it is confirmation that God’s word is truth (vs. 23-31).

(Revelation 12:17; 13:7)

Scripture References and Notes

Psalm 118:22-23

²² The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief corner *stone*. ²³ This is the LORD’S doing; It is marvelous in our eyes.

Exodus 20:11

For *in* six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that *is* in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

Psalm 146:6

Who made heaven and earth, The sea, and all that *is* in them; Who keeps truth forever...

Nehemiah 9:6

You alone *are* the LORD; You have made heaven, The heaven of heavens, with all their host, The earth and everything on it, The seas and all that is in them, And You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.

Psalm 2:1-6

¹ Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? ² The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, *saying*, ³ “Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us.” ⁴ He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision. ⁵ Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure: ⁶ “Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion.” ⁷ “I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, ‘You *are* My Son, Today I have begotten You.

John 15:18-20

¹⁸ “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 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. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

2 Timothy 3:1-2; 12-13

¹ But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy... ¹² Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. ¹³ But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

John 3:19-20

¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

John 16:11

...of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

2 Corinthians 4:4

...whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

Ephesians 2:1-2

¹ And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience...

Matthew 10:16-20

¹⁶ “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. ¹⁷ But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. ¹⁸ You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹ But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; ²⁰ for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

1 Peter 2:18-23

¹⁸ Servants, *be* submissive to *your* masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. ¹⁹ For this *is* commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. ²⁰ For what credit *is it* if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this *is* commendable before God. ²¹ For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: ²² “Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth”; ²³ who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously...

Revelation 12:17

And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus ^[c]Christ.

Revelation 13:7

It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.

*Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are from the New King James Version.

*Bolted Scripture references are not in the bulletin notes, but are available in the full notes on the church website. You may access these at <https://www.firstbaptistcp.com/sermon-archive/>.