

# WE WILL NOT ESCAPE PERSECUTION

2 Timothy 3:10-13

## Introduction:

- A. The U.S. Constitution states that *Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.*
1. Religious freedom is one of the p\_\_\_\_\_ of our country.
  2. The f\_\_\_\_\_ fathers saw no place for a church-state political structure.
  3. In the U.S.A. currently every r\_\_\_\_\_ is being practiced.
- B. 2 Timothy 3:12 states that all who live a godly life in connection with Christ Jesus will be p\_\_\_\_\_
1. This message is repeated throughout the Bible
    - a. Rom 8:17 - *if we are children of God, then we are heirs of God and fellow heirs of Christ, assuming that we s\_\_\_\_\_ with Him.*
    - b. Acts 14:22 - *through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.*
  2. My everyday life as a believer is pretty easy, is not yours? Are we not true believers?
    - a. The word translated as *persecution*, literally means *to run after, to p\_\_\_\_\_*
      - 1) When used in a p\_\_\_\_\_ sense, it means pursuing good things (2 Tim 2:22)
      - 2) When used in a n\_\_\_\_\_ sense, it means to pursue so as to bring some kind of harm.
    - b. If you are a true believer in Christ, you will not escape being the object of some kind of harm, solely based on the fact that you are connected to Jesus Christ.

## Persecution by worldly people (vv 10,11)

- A. Verse 11 points out the persecution that Paul experienced
1. In Antioch (Acts 13:14-51), Paul and Barnabas were d\_\_\_\_\_ out of the city for preaching the gospel.
  2. In Iconium (Acts 14:1-5), people were intending to mistreat and s\_\_\_\_\_ Paul and Barnabas for preaching the gospel.
  3. In Lystra (Acts 14:6-22), Paul was stoned by a crowd, dragged out of the city and left presumed d\_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Timothy had followed in Paul's f\_\_\_\_\_ (vv 10,11) including persecution and suffering.

- C. The history of extreme persecution of Christians is easily traceable.
1. 36 A.D. (Acts 8) – before Paul became a Christian, he would hunt for Christians, drag them out of their houses and j\_\_\_\_\_ them, even consenting to their deaths.
  2. The R\_\_\_\_\_ government persecuted Christians until 313 A.D. by jailing them, torturing them, and b\_\_\_\_\_ them alive.
  3. Today
    - a. North Korea - If one is discovered to be a Christian, it means imprisonment and hard l\_\_\_\_\_ (between 50,000 and 70,000 people are imprisoned).
    - b. Muslim dominated countries - Christians experience being shunned by family members, their property being vandalized, and some females taken by f\_\_\_\_\_ to become wives of Muslim men.
    - c. U.S.A.
      - 1) Polk State College (Florida) - A professor f\_\_\_\_\_ a student for not agreeing with his anti-Christian stance.
      - 2) Eastern Michigan University – A student was e\_\_\_\_\_ for expressing her faith in a counseling program.
      - 3) University of Wisconsin – a Christian was ordered to rewrite a paper, eliminating all r\_\_\_\_\_ references in order to avoid a failing grade.
- D. Expect persecution from worldly people.
1. This does not mean expect it e\_\_\_\_\_
  2. This does mean that we should not be s\_\_\_\_\_ when it happens to us (1 Pet 4:12-16)
  3. Examples:
    - a. R\_\_\_\_\_
    - b. Threats of losing your j\_\_\_\_\_, promotion, poor grade
    - c. Lose favor with f\_\_\_\_\_ members
    - d. Y\_\_\_\_\_ at.

### **Persecution by worldly policies**

- A. China, religious activity is r\_\_\_\_\_
1. Illegal to try to c\_\_\_\_\_ people to Christianity.
  2. Illegal to d\_\_\_\_\_ Christian material.
  3. Illegal for Christians to m\_\_\_\_\_ except in state sanctioned churches.

B. The USA

1. Obama-Care fined employers \$100 per day per employee for not providing insurance that covered “abortive” contraception for women (CEO of Hobby Lobby stores) – The Supreme Court ruled in favor of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. A Christian photographer was s\_\_\_\_\_ for refused his services at a same-sex wedding because it violated his conscience. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. A coach was f\_\_\_\_\_ for praying alone on the football field after a game. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. We can expect many such attempts to bring harm on believers.

**Persecution by dark powers (v. 13)**

A. Things are not going to get better with mankind because they are deceiving and being deceived. Satan is behind all deceit.

1. Jn 8:44 – Satan is the father of l\_\_\_\_\_
2. Eph 2:2 – Satan actively works in the lives of u\_\_\_\_\_
3. Rev 12:9 – Satan deceives the w\_\_\_\_\_ world.
4. Rev 12:17 - Satan wars against all those who keep the c\_\_\_\_\_ of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

B. Because you are a believer (strive to keep God’s commandments and stand for Jesus), Satan is warring in some way against you through his network of d\_\_\_\_\_ (Eph 6:12)

**Conclusion**

A. E\_\_\_\_\_ persecution for living out your faith by people or policies, remembering that Satan is behind it all.

B. Take c\_\_\_\_\_ when you are persecuted because Jesus has overcome the world (Jn 16:33).