

Edward Christian  
Church

August 3,  
2014



**“B9”**  
**Blessed are the**  
**Persecuted**  
***“Let Go of My***  
***Ego”***

# **Vitamins are Beneficial**

**B Vitamins have been used for years for:**

- **Energy**
- **Outlook**
- **Strength**

**Jesus Gives us some B Vitamins for:**

- **Energy**
- **Outlook**
- **Strength**

**They are Called ...the Beatitudes**

# Blessed = Happy



**Matt 5:10-12**, *Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteous” sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you,/ shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you*

## **Blessed= Happy**

- **Persecuted=**

***...Chased After***

***...Means I’m Still in Front!***

***“True Happiness comes from Knowing I am ...***

***...Making a Noticeable Difference in the Kingdom***



## **Saving the Best for Last**

- **It's the Last Beatitude /Serves as a Test of All Others**
- **Persecution is a Normal Mark of Discipleship**
- **It's the Longest one and it's the Hardest to Embrace**
- **It's the only One with a Command: "*Rejoice / be Glad*"**
- **It's the only One with an Explanation**
- **It's the only One Repeated Twice**
- **"Blessed" used Two Times as though Jesus is saying, "*You are doubly blessed when you are persecuted*"**
- **It's the Only Beatitude Addressed Directly to Us**

# Persecution

Persecution is...

- Chased after- *to Pursue*
- Trouble -Harassment
- Pressed - Tight Place
- Drive Away

## Categories

- **Test of Character-***“Verbal Insults”*
  - **Insult** = *to chide, taunt, or defame.*
  - **Luke 6:22:** *“Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you, and insult you, and reject your name as evil, because of the son of man.”*
- **Test of Comfort-***“Physical Attack”*
  - **Persecute**= *“to chase away or pursue with hostile intent, to be hunted down as an animal.”*
  - The tense of the verb= *“have endured repeated raiding”*



## Reasons for Persecution

- **1. Because of the Life we Live (10)**
- *“those who are persecuted because of righteousness”*
  
- 2. Because of the Lord we Love (11)**
  - **Jesus says people will Insult, Persecute, and**
  - **say False Things** *“because of me”*
  - **This Helps us Define the word** *“righteous”*
  - **Righteous simply means being like Jesus Christ...**
  - **...and Doing the Right Thing**



# **Persecution**

**Remember...**

**...When the Heat is On and**

**...You Think God Has Forgotten**

**God is More Concerned with...**

**...your Character**

**...than your Comfort**



# When Persecution Comes...

Remember...

God Does Not Require You to Be...

- Brilliant
- Clever
- Articulate
- Innovative
- Charming
- Handsome Or Beautiful

- But He Does Require You to be Faithful...
- *“it is required of stewards that they be found faithful”*
- 1 Cor 4:2





# Faithfulness and the Apostles

- James was beheaded
- Phillip was scourged, thrown into prison, and then crucified
- Matthew was slain with a sword
- James the Less was stoned to death
- Matthias was stoned and then beheaded
- Andrew was crucified and left hanging on the cross 3 days
- Peter was crucified upside down at his own request
- Jude (Thaddeus) was crucified
- Bartholomew was beaten with clubs and then crucified.
- Thomas was speared to death
- Simon the Zealot was crucified
- John died at 100 of old age in Ephesus





# Persecution Attitude

## Great Pleasure-*"Rejoice, and Be Exceeding Glad"* (12)

- Jesus promised them suffering, persecution, and a cross.
- **Rejoice**= *"be glad, to rejoice exceedingly, to thrive."*
- **Exceedingly Glad**- *"to exult, rejoice exceedingly"*
- literally..to skip, jump, and leap for joy

## Glorious Promise-*"Great Is Your Reward in Heaven"* (12)

- There are at **Least Three Reasons** for the **Joy of the Christian**
- #1- **Luke 10:20** *"Rejoice, because your names are **written in heaven**"*
- #2- **Rejoice** in Anticipation of the **Reward** for **Service**.
- #3- **Rev. 22:4** we shall see the Savior's Face...
- ...when the severity of persecution will fade into insignificance.

## • **Grand Privilege**- *We Follow in the Prophets' Footsteps* (12)

- **Hebrews 12:1 (AMP)** <sup>1</sup> THEREFORE THEN, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses [who have borne testimony to the Truth], let us strip off *and* throw aside every encumbrance (unnecessary weight) and that sin which so readily (deftly and cleverly) clings to *and* entangles us, and let us run with patient endurance *and* steady *and* active persistence the appointed course of the race that is set before us

# Blessings of Persecution



## 1. Persecution Confirms our Relationship

- We should rejoice that people see Jesus in us.
- **1 Peter 4:16:** *"If you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but*
  - *praise God that you bear his name."*
- Suffering is the **Badge** of our **Discipleship**.

## 2. Persecution Causes Reliance

- When we suffer we are more **Prone** to do some **Self-examination**
- We are **Forced** to **Lean** on God in Ways as **Never Done Before**
- When we do, we **See God's Power**
- **2 Corinthians 12:9-11** *"Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."*



## Blessings of Persecution

### 3. Persecution Cultivates Righteousness

- Best Way to Grow is to Go Through Some Grief
- **1 Peter 5:10:** *“And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you /make you strong, firm and steadfast.”*

### 4. Persecution Confers a Reward

- Suffering, causes us to focus on what's to come in heaven.
- We can jump for joy because of what's ahead.
- We may lose everything on earth, but...  
... we shall inherit everything in heaven.



# **Persecution**

**Remember...**

**When We Handle Persecution in a Way that...**

- **Brings Honor to God**
- **Brings Conviction to the Persecutor**
- **Brings God's Peace to the Persecuted**

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**God Smiles**