

Contingencies of Life

2 Sam 18:9-10

9 Now Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. For Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak. And his head caught fast in the oak, so he was left hanging between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him kept going.

10 When a certain man saw it, he told Joab and said, "Behold, I saw Absalom hanging in an oak."
(NAS)

Suffering

2 Cor 12:7-8; 10

7 And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me-- to keep me from exalting myself!

8 Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.
(NAS)

Suffering

1 Cor 13:4

4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

Acts 13:18

18 "And for a period of about forty years He put up with them in the wilderness.

1 Cor 9:12

12 If others share the right over you, do we not more? Nevertheless, we did not use this right, but we endure all things, that we may cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ.

Suffering of the Apostles

1 Cor 4:9-16

9 For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.

10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are prudent in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are distinguished, but we are without honor.

11 To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed, and are roughly treated, and are homeless;

Suffering of the Apostles

12 and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure;

13 when we are slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, even until now.

14 I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children.

15 For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet you would not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.

16 I exhort you therefore, be imitators of me.

Suffering of the Apostles

Matt 23:33-39

33 "You serpents, you brood of vipers, how shall you escape the sentence of hell?

34 "Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city,

Who will be persecuted?

- All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus
(2 Timothy 3:10-12)
- The disciples of Jesus
(Luke 21:12-17)
- Those who have sacrificed for Jesus' sake
(Mark 10:29-30)

Who will be persecuted?

Luke 6:24-26

"But woe to you who are rich, for you are receiving your comfort in full.

"Woe to you who are well-fed now, for you shall be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.

"Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for in the same way their fathers used to treat the false prophets.

Why do people persecute Christians?

John 15:18-25

- They do not know the One who sent Jesus (v21)
- They have no excuse for their own sin (v22)
- They have chosen to deny the irrefutable proof of miracles worked by Jesus (v24)

Why do people persecute Christians?

John 16:1-3

1 "These things I have spoken to you, that you may be kept from stumbling.

2 "They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God.

3 "And these things they will do, because they have not known the Father, or Me.

How should we react when we are persecuted?

- Bless them (*Rom. 12:14*)
- Pray for them (*Matt. 5:44*)
- Be full of Joy (*James 1:2-4*)
- Do not be afraid (*Phil. 1:27-30; Matt. 10:22-28; I Peter 3:14-17*)
- Be strengthened by God (*Rom. 8:35-36; Phil. 4:12-13*)
- Be comforted by your brethren (*I Peter 5:8-11*)
- Move on and continue preaching the Word (*Acts 13:49-52*)
- Realize justice will prevail (*II Thess. 1:1-12*)

Why should I be willing to suffer persecution?

Rom 8:18-19

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.

