

**“Blessed are those who  
are persecuted for  
righteousness’ sake”  
(Matthew 5:10).**



**A**LL WHO WILL LIVE GODLY IN CHRIST JESUS SHALL SUFFER PERSECUTION” (2 Timothy 3:12 KJV). Persecution shows we’re hitting the Devil where it hurts. Jesus was terribly persecuted and finally crucified for telling the truth and showing God’s love to the world, and He warns us to expect the same: “A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you” (John 15:20). But He also tells us: “Rejoice and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in Heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets which were before you” (Matthew 5:12). “If we suffer for Jesus’ sake and the Gospel’s, we shall also reign with Him” (2 Timothy 2:12).

We owe the message of God’s love to all, but especially to those who will believe and receive it. We’re not to fear persecution, but neither are we to cause ourselves unnecessary trouble by giving the message to people who we know won’t receive it and will possibly even persecute us for it. The whole purpose of witnessing is to win others with God’s love, not antagonize or offend. The Lord expects us to exercise wisdom. “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves,” Jesus says. “Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves” (Matthew 10:16).