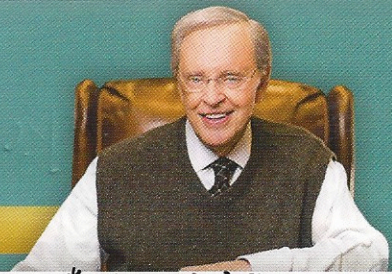


Sermon Notes

Practical Lessons for Understanding the Word of God



受逼迫 (為義受逼迫)

太五:8-12

Persecuted

誰能使我们與基督的靈隔絕呢？不可能！！基督耶穌愛我們！！ 09/24/16

太五:14; 44; 十:22-23

羅八:35; 37-39

09/10/16

KEY PASSAGE: Matthew 5:8-12 | SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:14, 44; 10:22-23 | Romans 8:35, 37-39
Ephesians 6:10 | Philippians 1:12-13 | 2 Timothy 3:12 | 1 Peter 4:12-13

平六:10

腓一:12-13

提後三:12

彼前四:12-13

主曾為我受逼迫，且十字架... 09/10/16

SUMMARY

Christianity has proven itself unstoppable.

Despite mistreatment, persecution, and even martyrdom, the church continues to grow. Even today around the world, thousands of believers are killed every year. Others have their property confiscated, and some are being tortured and raped. It's amazing that in the face of such heartache and pain, Christianity is actually stronger in these parts of the world than in areas which allow religious freedom.

As difficult as persecution is, the Bible offers hope to those who stand strong and faithfully endure. Jesus said believers who are persecuted, insulted, and falsely accused are blessed because their reward in heaven is great (Matt. 5:10-12). Although Christianity has been under attack throughout history, it will survive until Jesus comes to take His followers out of this evil world.

為義受逼迫的人有福了！因為天國是他們的。

living in freer societies, harassment comes in the form of insults, criticism, discrimination, or exclusion. Whenever persecution comes, no matter how severe or mild, every believer must decide whether to compromise in order to avoid trouble or to stand firm and endure. Compromising may bring immediate relief, but those who choose to live righteously despite the consequences gain so much more—a fruitful life that fulfills God's purpose, a positive influence on other people's lives, and an awesome witness to unbelievers.

我所受的，一點苦楚，算甚麼！要勇敢！！

活出聖果，使他人得知福音，得救，蒙福。

The purpose of persecution [逼迫的目的]: 蒙福。

Although persecution is meant to hurt and silence Christians, God uses it to accomplish His good purposes by the way it: 神能使用我们所受的一切:

■ Allows us to share in the sufferings of Christ (1 Pet. 4:13). He was abused and killed for us, and when we are persecuted, our suffering is counted as His.

與主同受苦

■ Tests our loyalty. The evidence of our faithfulness to Christ is not found in what we say but in what we do when fiery ordeals come our way. That's when we either stay true to God, or we seek the world's acceptance.

試煉我的忠誠

■ Furthers the gospel (Phil. 1:12). The Lord uses persecution to spread His message. Prison was the last place Paul expected to have an effective ministry, but he not only had a captive audience with the guards who were chained to him, he also had enough time to write the books of Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians.

使福音傳播

■ Enables us to encourage others undergoing persecution. When we've been mistreated and yet have experienced God's help and strength to endure, we're able to encourage others who are presently walking that same road of suffering.

使我們能去安慰鼓勵正遭逼迫的肢體、朋友

SERMON POINTS

Why does Christianity elicit such a negative reaction?

愈受逼迫，基督信徒愈多得福音，信仰愈堅固！

Jesus identified the cause when He said, "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness" (Matt. 5:10). A righteous life is a threat to a dark world. Christians who live in obedience to God are lights who expose the darkness of sinful practices. The apostle Paul pointed out the connection between holiness and persecution: "Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted" (2 Tim. 3:12).

因有主同在並主的保守！！

提後三:12

Mistreatment comes in various forms and degrees.

In some parts of the world, being a Christian is not only dangerous; it could result in death. For those

凡立志在基督耶穌裡敬虔度日的也都要受逼迫。

要為基督信仰付代價！要效法跟隨主！

太:22...惟有忍耐到底的,必然得救。 罗八:17...如果我们和主一同受苦,也必和祂一同得荣耀。

What the Lord did for us, He'll do for them.

■ **Demonstrates our loyalty to Christ.** If Jesus has first place in our lives, we'll be willing to adhere to a godly lifestyle even if it results in harassment and ridicule.

显明我们对主的忠诚

■ **Demonstrates our faith in God's Word.** When we truly believe the Scriptures, we'll willingly suffer persecution knowing that God will make us adequate for every situation.

表明我们对主话语的信心

■ **Encourages us to anticipate a reward.** The Lord never forgets a single act of obedience or righteousness. In fact, He promises us a very great reward in heaven, even for simply taking the time to help someone in need.

鼓励我们等待主的赏赐

The proper response to persecution

对逼迫的正确回应

The most natural reaction is to run from persecution, and sometimes that is exactly what we should do.

① 逃跑

When the apostle Paul experienced harsh treatment and could no longer be effective in ministry, he often moved on to the next city. His goal was to spread the message of Jesus to people who would hear and respond, not to keep preaching to those who refused to listen.

② 喜福音太:23

However, there were also times when Paul stayed in a city despite mistreatment. Jesus accurately predicted that His followers would be hated, yet they would stay and endure if it meant being true to Christ (Matt. 10:22). No matter how bad opposition becomes, we have a promise that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ, not even persecution (Rom. 8:35-39).

太:22

When the Lord calls us to stay in a difficult situation, we can respond properly by:

② 勇敢面对

■ **Standing strong.** The strength to withstand persecution comes from the Lord. We stand strong in Him, based on everything He's said in His Word (Eph. 6:10).

书:10: 藉神的刚强,站立的稳

■ **Enduring opposition.** This means we abide under the persecution. Or in today's language, we hang in there and rely on God's strength until He moves us out of the situation.

忍受反对,主必同我们行

弗:10 你要倚靠主并把祂的大能大力

作用刚强的人。要穿戴神所赐的全副军装,就能抵挡魔鬼的诡计(11)。

■ **Loving and praying for our enemies.** This is perhaps the most difficult assignment, yet it's what Christ commands (Matt. 5:44). We're to pray that Jesus might be made known to our enemies through our responses to mistreatment. Unbelievers can't understand why Christians exhibit strength, love, and forgiveness in the midst of ill treatment. Wherever the church has endured persecution, it has grown because people see how believers respond, and want that kind of life as well.

荣耀。

太五:44

要爱仇敌,喜通逼迫的祷告

The worst way to react to persecution is to stop talking about Jesus for fear of upsetting people. However, we need to unsettle them by courageously and clearly sharing the truth because without Christ, they're on their way to everlasting separation from God. One day all their enjoyments and pursuits will vanish, and they'll have to stand before a holy, righteous God. We want them to know the only One who can change their lives—both now and for all eternity.

如少,果况都要传福音!

■ **God's promise to the persecuted**

思想神的属性: 要崇公义,公正又慈爱,与我同在

在逼迫中主的应许:

Jesus told His followers, "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great" (Matt 5:12). We all have our ideas of what "great" could be, but God's "great" is beyond our imagination. All the other things we have pursued in life will be nothing compared to what He will give us.

太五:12 将来在天上 的赏赐是大的

RESPONSE

- How would recognizing God's purposes in your times of mistreatment change your thoughts, feelings, and responses toward others?
- How does rejoicing in the faithfulness of the Lord change your perspective on persecution?
- Have you ever loved and prayed for someone who mistreated you? What effect did it have on you, on that person, and on your situation?

认识神的 心意及目的, 并在信靠的 神性喜乐, 爱 你的仇敌, 就 能面对逼迫

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