

THE BLESSEDNESS OF BEING PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS
(Matthew 5:10-12)

- I. The PERSECUTION of the Righteous
 - A. Not to be SOUGHT but to be ENDURED (1 Pet. 2:19-20)
 - 1. No special VIRTUE in being persecuted
 - 2. Can be easily AVOIDED by COMPROMISE
 - B. The inevitable response of the UNREDEEMED to a RIGHTEOUS life (1 Pet. 4:12)
 - 1. NORMAL to the Christian life (2 Tim. 3:12)
 - 2. CONFIRMATION of a believer's faithfulness (Gal. 4:29)
 - C. Comes in three general categories of AFFLICTION
 - 1. VERBAL INSULTS (cf. 1 Pet. 3:16-17)
 - 2. PHYSICAL PERSECUTION (1 Pet. 2:21, 24)
 - 3. FALSE ACCUSATIONS (cf. 1 Pet. 4:4)
 - D. Comes because of our AFFILIATION with CHRIST (1 Pet. 2:20; cf. John 15:18-21)
 - 1. For BEING His FOLLOWER
 - 2. For MODELING His CHARACTER

II. The PROMISE to the Persecuted

A. PARTICIPATION in the Kingdom (cf. 5:3)

B. REWARD in the Kingdom (5:11-12)

1. A DOUBLE pronouncement of BLESSING

2. A REWARD to be received in HEAVEN

3. A REWARD described as "GREAT"

4. An ASSOCIATION with the PROPHETS

III. The RESPONSE to Persecution (cf. 1 Pet. 4:13)

A. REJOICE in knowing the KINGDOM is YOURS

B. EXULT in knowing your REWARD is GREAT