

A Lively Hope In Troubled Times
Formed for Glory
1 Peter 2.11-12

[Have you ever wondered why God would allow His people, born again Christians, to suffer persecution?]

[In the Word of God persecution often caused the people of God to become scattered. To leave what was once their comfort zone, that had become harsh and hard to live in, perhaps even deadly and to flee to less hostile places. Their persecutions caused them to be come scattered.]

[In allowing His children to be scattered God caused them to take their witness and the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ to spiritually dark areas of the world.]

[Peter in writing to these scattered Christians now writes to them about the end result of their scattering.]

[The word scatter in 1 Peter 1.1 literally means to broadcast seed. **God in scattering these Christians is literally scattering the Word of life.** The Gospel of Jesus Christ. The question is, **"Is the seed of life being scattered, or have your trials caused you to become a hidden candle?"**]

Three things to notice in these verses.

Mark 4.16

A. The Determination (vs 11) [- *Dearly beloved, **I beseech you** as strangers and pilgrims, **abstain** from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;* - Those things that draw upon our spirituality include,]

1. The Pressures of Persecution (Mark 4.16-17; Matt 5.10-12) [- Our Lord Jesus Christ prophetically told us that living this Christian life would not be easy, it would be a spiritual warfare, and serious struggle.]

[In the Parable of the seed our Lord Told us and warned us about this spiritual struggle and what we would war against.]

[Mark 4:16-17 And these are they likewise which are **sown on stony ground**; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; ¹⁷And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, **when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake**, immediately they are offended.]

Matt 5.10

When it comes to persecution the question is not **“Will you be persecuted?”** The question is **“When you are persecuted how will you respond?”**]

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A. The Determination – We will know
1. The Pressures of Persecution

[When persecution comes will you be offended in your faith, or will you overcome and stand in your faith?]

● **[Jesus revealed Persecution at three levels:]**

[Matthew 5:10-12 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹**Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.** ¹²Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.]

[1) **There will be Mocking** - revile]

[2) **There will be Manhandling** - Physical attack, persecution.]

[3) **There will be Malice** - Blatant lies.]

2. **The Pull of Prosperity (Mark 4.18-19; Luke 21.34)**

[Mark 4:18-19 And these are they which are **sown among thorns**; such as hear the word, ¹⁹**And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches**, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.]

[Do Christians realize how our culture and the cares of our lives tend to draw us away from God.]

[Our priorities are manifested in those choices we make on a daily basis.]

- [What do you make time for?]
- [What does our life declare as the preeminent issue in our lives? Our treasure, our recreation, our spirituality.]

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- A. The Determination** – We will know
1. The Pressures of Persecution
 2. The Pull of Prosperity

[Here is the clincher, we will sit here in this sanctuary and nod our heads in agreement. But will we put legs on our convictions? If not, then are they convictions at all? Perhaps they are just passing thoughts.]

Gal 5.16

*[Luke 21:34 **And take heed to yourselves**, lest at any time **your hearts be overcharged** with surfeiting, and drunkenness, **and cares of this life**, and so that day come upon you unawares.]*

3. The Persuasion of our Personality (Gal 5.16-17) [- Our humanity]

*[Galatians 5:16-17 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷**For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other:** so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.]*

[It is not easy to live the spirit filled life.]

- [**Our world** wars against our spirituality.]
- [**Our adversary** (The Devil) wars against our spirituality]
- [**Our own flesh** wars against our spirituality. Our desires, our tendencies, our lack of persistence and short attentions span all war against our spirituality. Our simple humanity struggles against our spiritual quest.]

[To live a spirit filled life requires disciplines and training at a level equal to that of any great athlete. A world class marathon runner trains tenaciously to be the best. We as Christians must train with the same diligence to be Christ-like.]

[To take a lazy approach to your Christian Journey, to expect a simple and comfortable spiritual walk is to be defeated before you even really got started.]

[Come thou fount]

[O to grace how great a debtor

Daily I'm constrained to be!

Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,

Bind my wandering heart to Thee:

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,

Prone to leave the God I love;

Here's my heart, O take and seal it;

Seal it for Thy courts above.]

Rom 12.1

B. The Transformation (vs 12) [- "having **your conversation** honest among the gentiles . . ." - **There is a form to be taken.** The word conversation here speaks of the way we live our lives.]

*[Romans 12:1–2 - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. ²And be not conformed to this world: **but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,** that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.]*

Rom 13.11

[This speaks of developing a God honoring lifestyle, a God honoring lifestyle doesn't just happen it requires:]

1. A Decision to Change (Rom 13.11-4) [- We must choose to become people that will be the express image of Jesus Christ. If we will reflect Christ then there must be a change in our life.]

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[This is much more than just becoming a moral of good person. It is becoming a person of purpose. You have chosen to be good and moral that the world might see Jesus in you. It is not just to be good, but to put on Jesus Christ.]

[Romans 13:11-14 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. ¹²The night is far spent, the day is at hand: **let us therefore cast off** the works of darkness, **and let us put on** the armour of light. ¹³**Let us walk** honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. ¹⁴**But put ye on** the Lord Jesus Christ, **and make not provision** for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.]

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- B. The Transformation**
1. A Decision to Change

[It is to put on Jesus Christ with a purpose in mind. That in honoring God our families and friends might see Jesus and live for Him as well.]

2. **A Direction for which to Contend (Gal 5.18-24)**

[Just what does it look like to put on Jesus?]

[Galatians 5:18-24 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. ²²**But the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. ²⁴And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.]

3. **A Determination to Continue (2 Cor 7.1)**

[No greater harm could be done to the cause of Christ than for a Christian to fight the fight of faith for a while and then to backslide into the pits of depravity again.]

[Instead we must stay the course. We must endure through the good times and the bad times.]

[It is often harder to endure through the good times than it is through the bad times.]

[2 Cor. 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, **let us cleanse** ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness** in the fear of God.]

C. **A Projection (vs 12)** [- Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; ¹²Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, **they may by your good works, which they shall behold,** glorify God in the day of visitation. - A comprehension.]

1. **Their Observation** [- Through you they will see Jesus - "They may by your good works, which they shall behold . . ."]

[When the world sees the good that you do, what do they see?]

[Proverbs 12:4 - **A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband:** but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.]

[Are you a Crown for our God or a Frown from our God?]

[The way we live our lives in Christ and the way we witness for and of our God is either a Crown for our God or a rottenness in His bones. Born Again Christians and how they live their life impacts to reputation of our Lord Jesus Christ and the glory of our God.]

2. **His Manifestation** [- Through you they will hear about Jesus - *Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they*

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*speaking against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, **glorify God in the day of visitation.***

[Do they see Jesus through you? Have they found Jesus through you?]

CrossRoads Baptist, Jan 10, 2021
Sugar Creek Baptist, March 27, 2005, Evening

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