

Persecution

- 1 Peter 4:12-19 -

- A. "Christians are persecuted more today than at any time prior to the 20th century.." (Persecuted church website – www.family.org/cforum/fosi/persecution)
- B. Of the top 50 Christian Persecuted Countries, the top four are North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Laos, and Vietnam.
- C. In America, are the "acts" of persecution exaggerated or true?
- D. Has the ban on prayer in some public schools stopped a child's prayer life? Is taking God's name off of money the greatest catastrophe? What was the state of the union before the pledge was recited without "one nation under God"?

1. How Do We and Our Children Prepare for _____ ?

- A. _____ - **1 Pet 4:1,2**
- B. We are not like the Gentiles (**1 Thess 4:3-5; Titus 2:14**). Be transformed not conformed (**Rom 12:2**).
- C. Our admonition is from one who went through persecution (**Matt 10:24-26**). The difference is also with family (**v.34-37**)
- D. *The world can be a _____ for those who _____* (**1 Pet 4:3,4**) Instead of compassion and respect, the world may show criticism and frustration
- E. Jesus warned the apostles about a hostile world (**Jn 15:18-21**)
- F. Jesus was call names as we may be (i.e. "phobia", "anti", "intolerant", "judgers", "haters")
- G. The world's hostility is because the gospel is a **NOT** inclusive (**Matt 7:13-21; Jn 10:7-10; Acts 4:12, 1 Jn 5:11-13**)
- H. *All who are _____* (**1 Pet 4:12-14**)
- I. It is easy to be bitter and disgusted with persecution, but understand light and dark are opposites (**Jn 3:19-21**).
- J. Prophets were persecuted before Christians (**Matt 5:12; Heb 11:32-40**) "*Marvel not,.. if the world hateth you*" (**1 Jn 3:13**)
- K. Who should be pitied, the world who persecutes or the Christians who are persecuted?
- L. *There is no _____ to be _____* (**1 Peter 4:15,16**)
- M. Should we suffer from sin or from righteousness?
- N. In persecution, you avoid the fear and trouble of the ungodly (**1 Pet 3:13,14**). There is no shame to answer your belief (**v.15**)
- O. Paul took "*pleasure..in persecutions*" (**2 Cor 12:10**)...
- P. Worldly people cannot believe we love and live for God (**Matt 27:39**). Moses, Daniel, Paul, nor the apostles were ashamed (**Acts 5:40,41**). It is "*acceptable to God*"....(**1 Pet 2:20**)..
- Q. *Persecution _____* (**1 Pet 1:6,7**)
- R. Persecution shows us where our faith is... It is going to be the barometer of our Christianity... It is the cost of discipleship ("*with persecutions*", **Mk 10:30**)...
- S. Because of persecution, the church grew (**Acts 8:4**).
- T. *Commit your life to a _____* (**1 Pet 4:18,19**)
- U. God will not forsake, He knows what's going on in the world and in your life. Trust Him, not the circumstances... (**1 Pet 5:9**)