



# RIGHTEOUSNESS

---

PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE



2

“Blessed *are* those who are **persecuted** for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Matt 5:10

“But even if you should **suffer for righteousness’ sake**, you are blessed. And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled” I Pt 3:14

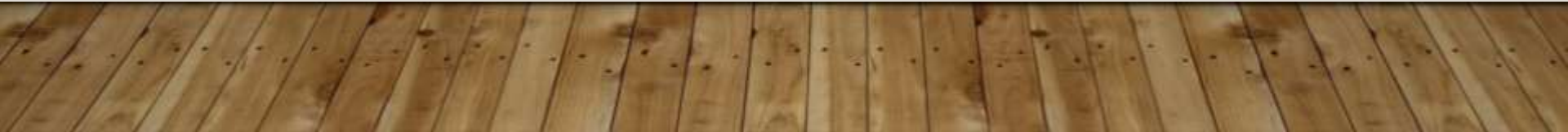
“Indeed, all who delight in pursuing righteousness and are determined to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will be hunted and **persecuted** [because of their faith].”  
II Tim 3:12

3

“Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;”  
I Pt. 4:1

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for **instruction in righteousness**” 2 Tim 3:16

“For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to distinguish between good and evil.” Heb 5:13,14



# 4 PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE

---

- The Jews received *approval* from King Cyrus  
(Ezra 1:1-4)
- *Resources* were given  
(Ezra 1:5-11)
- *Leadership / great assembly* (Ezra 2:64)
- *Obedience* to what was written (Ezra 3:2,4)

## 5 PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE

---

- Despite inward fears they continued to **praise** the Lord (Ezra 3:10,11)
- “But in your hearts set Christ apart [as holy—acknowledging Him, **giving Him first place** in your lives] as Lord.” 1 Pt. 3:15

# 6 PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE

---

- Adversaries approach (Ezra 4:1)
- Hired counselors against them to frustrate their purpose (Ezra 4:4,5)
- Wrote a Letter (Ezra 4:7)
- The work was stopped (Ezra 4:21,24)

# 7 PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE

---

- God is just, He will right  
your wrong (Ezra 6)
  - Restore vs 5
  - Protection vs 6, 12
  - Provision vs 8
  - Prospered vs 14

# 8 PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE

---

- Despite inward fears they continued to praise the Lord  
(Ezra 3:10,11)
- “But in your hearts set Christ apart [as holy—acknowledging Him, giving Him first place in your lives] as Lord.” 1 Pt. 3:15
- Listening/obeying God’s Word
  - ✓ The **eye** of the Lord was upon them (Ezra 5:1,2,5)
  - ✓ I will guide thee with my **eye** (Ps. 32:8)
  - ✓ The **eyes** of the Lord are upon the righteous (Ps. 34:15)
  - ✓ The **eyes** of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is perfect toward Him. (II Chron 16:9)