

I. Persecuted for Righteousness' Sake

1. Righteousness is conformance to the law of God ([Ps. 119:172](#)).
 - a. This makes sense because God Himself is righteous ([Ps. 119:137](#)).
 - b. God is opposed to the world and the world is opposed to God ([Jm. 4:4](#); [Jn. 15:18-20](#); [1 Jn. 2:15-17](#)).
 - c. The carnal mind is enmity against God ([Rm. 8:1-8](#)).
 - d. No wonder persecution comes if I conform to the righteousness of God!
 - e. No wonder I am not persecuted when I think, talk, and act like the world ([Jn. 15:19](#))!
2. Righteousness is distinct.
 - a. Consider the Law of Moses given to the nation of Israel ([Dt. 4:1-8](#)).
 - b. Consider the better Law of the New Testament given to all people ([Rm. 1:16-17](#); [Heb. 8](#)).
 - c. The New Testament brings persecution to those who follow it ([2 Tim. 3:12](#); [Mk. 10:28-31](#)).
3. Righteousness is undenominational and anti-denominational.
 - a. We are to speak the same things that there be no divisions among you ([1 Cor. 1:10](#)).
 - b. Prohibition against modifying God's Word ([Rev. 22:18-19](#)).
4. Righteousness is opposed to all error.
 - a. Righteousness and truth are linked ([Ps. 119:142](#), [160](#)).
 - b. Once God's Word is understood then falsehood must be hated ([Ps. 119:104](#), [128](#), [163](#); [Pr. 13:5](#)).
 - c. Falsehood must be exposed and opposed not partnered with ([Eph. 5:11-17](#); [1 Cor. 15:33-34](#))!

II. Persecuted for Jesus' Sake

1. Jesus is distinct.
 - a. He claimed He is the exclusive way to the Father and thus Heaven ([Jn. 14:6](#)).
 - b. His language was distinct ([Jn. 7:46](#); [Mt. 7:28-29](#), [13:54-56](#)).

2. Jesus is undenominational and anti-denominational.
 - a. He only promised to build one church and He did ([Mt. 16:18-19](#); [Eph. 4:4](#) with [Eph. 1:20-23](#)).
 - b. Every plant that the Father has not planted shall be rooted up ([Mt. 15:13](#)).
3. Jesus is opposed to all error.
 - a. Prophesied about and applied to Jesus ([Heb. 1:8-9](#); cf. [Ps. 45:6-7](#)).
 - b. Consistent with Him being the truth ([Jn. 14:6](#)).
 - c. The Jews hated this ([Jn. 8:31-59](#)).
4. The closer I get to Jesus the more persecution comes.
 - a. The apostles were persecuted for carrying out His will ([Ac. 5:40-42](#); [Mt. 28:18-20](#)).
 - b. The entire epistle of 1 Peter deals with suffering for Christ ([1 Pt. 4:12-16](#)).
 - c. Consider the Thessalonians ([1 Th. 2:14-16](#)).

III. Remember the Prophets

1. The prophets were distinct in their message and living.
 - a. The prophet Jeremiah was made a defenced city, iron pillar, and brasen walls against the idolatrous people of Judah as well as foreign nations ([Jer. 1](#)).
 - b. Persecution was their common lot ([2 Chr. 36:11-16](#)).
 - c. Jerusalem was guilty of killing God's prophets including His only begotten Son ([Mt. 21:33-46](#), [23:37](#)).
2. The prophets called people out of wickedness and to repentance.
 - a. John the Immerser lost his head for rebuking Herod ([Mt. 14:1-12](#)).
 - b. Persecution was their common lot ([Neh. 9:26](#); [Ac. 7:51-60](#)).
3. The prophets did not cater to the wants of the people and religious groups.
 - a. Michaiah would only speak what the LORD said for him to speak and he was persecuted because of it ([1 Kgs. 22:13-28](#)).
 - b. Persecution was their common lot ([Jm. 5:10](#)).
4. The world was not worthy ([Heb. 11:32-40](#)).
 - a. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great *is* your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you ([Mt. 5:12](#)).