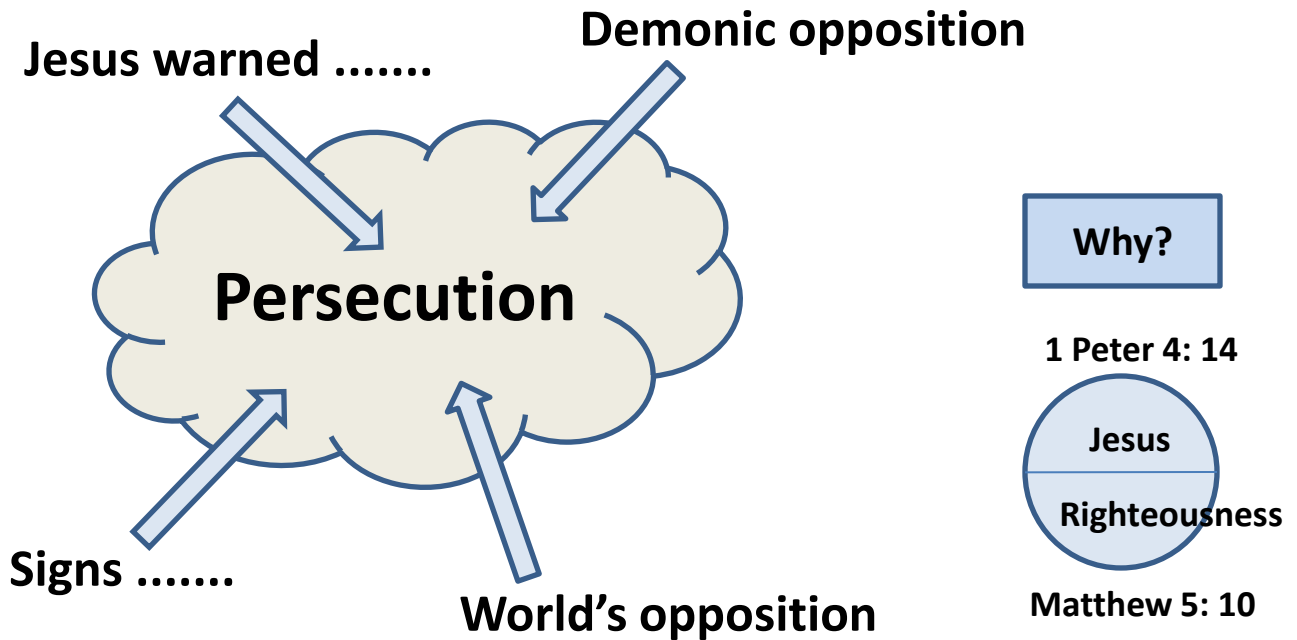


# Persecution – timeless reality .....



“The Bible Student” – CPI – Study # 46 and 49



## Persecution – it “goes with the territory”

Matthew 5: 11-12 and 44

- its a daily reality
- it shows we are on the right side!

Jesus warned .....

- Matthew 10: 17-42
- John 15: 18 – 16:4

Priority in caring for our brethren

- Matthew 25: 31 – 46

Sober reality .....

- 1 Peter 2: 20 -23
- 1 Peter 3: 13 – 17
- 1 Peter 4: 12 -19
- Revelation 6: 9 -11

## Our response ???

Love your enemies – Luke 6: 27 – 36

Eye for an eye? – Matthew 5: 18 – 48

Doing good to persecutors – Romans 12: 9 - 21

## Future assured

Jesus died for us – Revelation 5

Jesus has redeemed us – Revelation 7: 9-17

Our future reward – Revelation 20: 4-6

# **Persecution – five encouragements .....**

## **God is always in control**

If He allows persecution, it's for the good of His Kingdom. In China, believers only experienced the full joy of intimacy with Jesus when they were in the furnace of affliction and yet emerged out the other side

## **Persecution is the last thing we want!**

But our faith must rest in the fact that the Lord Jesus will not let us down. He will never leave, nor forsake us. Persecution cannot destroy our relationship with Him. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble of hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger, or sword? (Romans 8:35)

## **When hardship comes, we shouldn't only 'see' the hand of Satan at work**

In 1950s China God's people looked back and realized it was the Lord Jesus overseeing the whole process – out of love for His children. He is zealous to remove mere religiosity that trap people in bondage, and prevent us seeing the true gospel in all its glory.

## **Persecution is a pruning process**

In China when persecution broke out around 2/3 of churchgoers fell away. Jesus told us this will occur: "They quickly fall away" (Mark 4:17). If 2/3 of Chinese fell away, how might things be in your part of the World?

## **Persecution often brings great revival**

In China the persecutions resulted in growth of Christian believers to today's + 100 million. It took 60 years, but the recovery in China was more than one hundred-fold! All glory to God. Many have learned to embrace persecution rather than fear it.

More here: [https://christian-publications-int.com/images/PDF/BibleStudent/46\\_FINAL%20PERSECUTION.pdf](https://christian-publications-int.com/images/PDF/BibleStudent/46_FINAL%20PERSECUTION.pdf)