

KNOWING HIM PT. 9

WHAT HE LOVES - THE PERSECUTED

Persecution

- Our society has grossly defied God's standards. To uphold His standards, we will face persecution. *2Tim. 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*
- People are so influenced by New Age ideology that they shun God's way and fight against those that attempt to hold true to it. *Is. 5:20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*
- When we decide to live according to the will of God, we are often persecuted by those that seek to do what is right in their own minds. *Prov. 16:25 There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*

Truth Deficient

- Dysfunction is usually the driving force in people that persecute others. There is usually a deficit involved that blinds a person from the truth and causes them to defend lies. *John 12:40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.*



- When a person has been a victim of bad decisions, bad choices, or bad behavior, they will usually attempt to look better in the eyes of people in order to overcome insecurity. *Prov. 21:4 An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin.*
- Insecurity puts people in a position to deny what is true because they desire to appear better than they really are. 'Victims of circumstance' cannot accept the truth because it would mean admitting that their way is the wrong way. *Prov. 16:5 Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.*

Fault Finders

- Envious people persecute others. When a person sees your decisions and actions as "better" than theirs, then they will usually find fault with you. *Prov. 14:30 A sound heart is*

the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.

- People should change their thought process and actions so it will line up with what is right, rather than defending wrong, and fighting against what is right. *1 Tim. 6:4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but dotting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,*
- True believers often suffer at the hands of their very own families and friends. But God is faithful and His reward is great. *1 Pet. 3:14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;*

Summary

True believers are new creations and our past should no longer matter. Pride, malice, and wrath should all be avoided. So many modern day Christians have bought into society's self centered remedies, thus they cannot let go of who they once were in the past. Many usually add "Jesus" to their lives and continue on their paths of self fulfillment. Selfishness forces them to persecute those that had the humility to start all over, no matter how shameful or humiliating it may have been. Those that can walk away from who they were and accept their new identity in Christ are the ones that are blessed. But this comes with much persecution. The ones that are doing the persecuting are the ones that could not let go of pride, malice, and wrath.



To walk in your creation role and align your home with God's plan brings negative opinions from those that cannot do it. To homeschool your children and train them up in the right way brings critical comments from those that do not want to do it. To invest in family rather than superfluity is unpopular and often invokes the reproach of men. To focus on anything that truly matters to God and shun New Age ideals will bring persecution from those that love the world and the things that are in the world. But God truly blesses those that can endure persecution for the sake of rightness! When we do things God's way, love what He loves and hate what He hates, then we are truly blessed and our reward will be great when He returns.

Matt. 5:10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matt. 5:11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.