

WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH
GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD.
HE WAS WITH HIM IN THE
BEGINNING, THROUGH HIM ALL
THINGS WERE MADE. WHO
HIM, WHO HING DID NOT
HAS BEEN MADE. HE WAS
LIFE, AND THE LIFE WAS
OF MEN. THE LIGHT SHINE
THE DARKNESS, BUT THE
NESS HAS NOT UNDERSTOOD IT.

the gospel of

JOHN

John 16:1-6

Introduction

Believers live in a world of religion and religionists. The world even looks upon believers as religionists, but we are not.

Believers are ambassadors of Christ, who are to deliver the message of eternal hope and life to a dying world.

There is only One God and only one way to approach Him.

That is through Jesus Christ. The world feels this is narrow, rejects God's Son and sets up its own ways to God. The end result is a world full of religions. This passage deals with the relationship between believers and the religionists of the world.

John 16:1-6

“These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. ² They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. ³ And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me. ⁴ But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them. And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵ “But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.”

The Warning of Persecution

John 16:1

“These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble.”

Jesus warned the believer that religionists would persecute His followers. Jesus warned the believer because He wants to prevent the believer from stumbling. Persecution by religionists can be a stumbling block to the believer.

The Warning of Persecution

John 16:1

“These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble.”

Persecution can...

- cause a believer to question his beliefs.
- cause a believer to weaken and return to the way of false religion.
 - silence a believer and his witness.
 - cause a believer to deny Jesus.

The Attempt to Silence Worship

John 16:2

“They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.”

The persecution is to be severe, and it is religious in nature.

The goal is to silence the worship of the believer. As an example, Jesus mentioned the ultimate persecution where the believer will be put out of the synagogue and killed. Note three points.

1. The persecution is religious; it is carried out by those who think they really know God and are doing exactly what God wants. They think they are removing false teaching.

The Attempt to Silence Worship

John 16:2

“They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.”

2. False religionists have always rejected and abused true believers and prophets. God’s messengers have been attacked, tortured, imprisoned, and killed. Jesus Himself was mocked, ridiculed, slandered, and crucified.

3. Persecution within the church often happens. On this earth, God's house is full of people who have not really committed their lives to God. Therefore, the believer who truly takes a stand for God and His righteousness is sometimes opposed and persecuted by those within the church.

Reason for Persecution

John 16:3

“And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me.”

Jesus gives the reason that underlies all other reasons for persecution. False religionists do not know God nor His Son, Jesus Christ. This is a staggering statement made by Jesus, for religionists *think* they know God. They have their own idea of God, but it is only their idol.

Preparation for Persecution

John 16:4-6

“But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them. And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵ "But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.”

There are four ways a believer can prepare for persecution.

1. The believer must expect persecution. He must remember that Jesus foretold that he would be persecuted. Remembering keeps the believer from being caught off guard and stumbling. The believer is to prepare for persecution by thinking through what he will do when he is.

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2. The believer must know that God exists and that Jesus reigns. Jesus had told the disciples that they would face trouble and persecution in the world. Now He is giving them more detail to that persecution. We can face opposition because we know that God is with us. We live to please Him and not the world!

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3. The believer must think and keep his mind on his destiny. Jesus has gone to the Father who sent Him. He has returned to heaven and this is the believer's destiny. If persecutors kill the believer, it is not loss. He gains something far better than this life, the presence of God Himself.

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4. Believers must call upon the Helper, the Holy Spirit.

This point will be covered in the next few verses. The Holy Spirit is given by God to be the constant companion of the believer, to help and comfort the believer through the persecution.

So What...

The concept of persecution seems so far away from us in America. The worst that most face is a rude comment or look.

Yet in 2014 Christianity Today reported that over 100,000 Christians were put to death. This is not to mention the number that were raped and tortured just because they follow Christ.

Watch groups warn that 100 million believers are in danger of losing their lives mostly at the hands of groups like ISIS. Yet these stories rarely make the news.

So What...

I would encourage you to go to

<https://www.opendoorsusa.org>

<http://www.persecution.com>

You can do a web search with Voice of the Martyrs or

Persecuted Church but is not for the faint of heart.

These are our brothers and sisters in Christ who are
dying as we sit silent.

We need to be in prayer for faithful believers and their
families.

We need to let our voices be heard.