

Persecution From Proclamation

Acts 7:51 - 8:3

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Acts 8:1 Attempts to stop the message

- Threats. 4:17-18
- Imprisonment. 5:17-18
- Beatings. 5:40
- Disputing. 6:9-10
- Lies and false witnesses. 6:13
- Violence against the innocent. 7:57-58; 8:3
- Yet, the gospel and its messengers were not stopped. Acts 8:4 (5:39); Matthew 5:10-12

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Stephen serves as an object lesson to us on the subject of persecution.

- Stephen's address was not a personal attack.
 - These unbelievers were disobedient to God. Acts 7:60
 - Power is in the message. Hebrews 4:12; Jude 22-23
- Expect Persecution. Note: Acts 14:22
 - 2 Timothy 3:12; Matthew 10:34-37; John 15:18-21; 16:1-4
 - Matthew 5:11-12; Acts 17:5; cf. 1 Thessalonians 3:1ff

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- Love And Trust God. Proverbs 3:5-6; Psalms 56:11; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 1 Peter 2:21-23; 1 Peter 4:19
- Pray to God. Acts 4:23-31; 1 Peter 5:7-9; Psalms 7:1; Romans 15:30-31; Acts 21:11; 21:30-33; 22:22ff; 23:10, 15, 22ff, 26; 24:7; 24:22
- Use the Scriptures. Romans 10:17; 1 Peter 3:14-16; Matthew 4:1-11

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- Choose Companions Carefully. 1 Corinthians 15:33; Proverbs 13:20; Acts 4:23; 2 Corinthians 1:3-5; Hebrews 10:23-25
- Remember Faithful Servants Who Endured. Moses; Elijah; Daniel; Daniels' friends; David; Apostles; Stephen; Paul. cf. Hebrews 11
- Persecution Lasts Only A Little While. 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1; 1 Peter 5:10; cf. 1 Peter 4:12ff; Revelation 6:9ff;
 - Consider Peter's admonitions ...
 - 1 Peter 1:13; 2:20; 2:23; 3:14-15
- Remember Your Reward. Luke 6:22-23; Hebrews 10:32-34; Revelation 2:10