

The Gifts of Christmas

#16: Persecution

John 15: 18-27; 16: 1-4

Gifts of Christmas:

1. Light
2. Glory
3. Grace
4. Truth
5. Partnership
6. Joy
7. New Beginning
8. Faith
9. Love – Agape
10. Peace
11. Eternal Life
12. The Church
13. Prayer – Call upon the Name of the Lord
14. Purpose
15. Holy Spirit
16. Persecution

Persecution is enmity. Enmity between!

Genesis 3: 15 enmity between the Serpent and mankind / Enmity between Israel and the rest of the world / Enmity between the Religious leaders and Jesus / Enmity between the Church and the Rest of the lost world!

Why? **Persecution** – 1375 – prim verb – flee, Pursue (press forward) through – adverse situations Gethsemane – place of the press! Olive Oil

1. God created Enmity! A wedge between! The tool to separate! A Crow Bar!

John 5: 16 “Therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus and sought to slay him.”

John 8: 37 “I know that ye are Abraham’s seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.”

John 10: 20 “...they sought again to take him, but he escaped out of their hands.”

John 11: 57 “now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a commandment that if any man knew where he were, he should shew it that they might take him.”

John 14: 30 “The Prince of this world cometh and hath nothing in me.”

John 15: 18-25 if the world hate you, it hated me first/No man is greater than his master/if they persecuted me, they will also persecute you

2. This enmity declares two worlds!

3. This Persecution brings light to the dividing line! It makes people choose sides... Acts 7: 52

Nicodemus / Joseph

4. This Persecution separates us from the sinners but also separates us from the sin!

1st Peter 4: 1 “Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind, for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin.

5. This Enmity creates a plate-form to gain greater rewards in heaven.

Matt. 5: 12 “Blessed are ye when men shall revile you and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake, Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad for great is your reward in heaven.”

Romans 8: 17 “And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”

6. This Enmity gives us a platform to declare our relationship loudly – A Mega Phone!

Matthew 10: 16 “I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.”

Mark 13: 9-11 “...but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak but the Holy Spirit...”

7. How does persecution come? John 7: 14 “I have given them thy word, and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”

John 17: 14 “I have given them thy word, and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”

1st Corinthians 4: 9-10 Read

8. Our Suffering produces death to us but life to others.

2nd Corinthians 5: 12 “So then death worketh in us, but life in them.”

9. Persecution proves ourselves to be ministers of God. To ourselves and to others!

2nd Corinthians 6: 4 “In all things approving ourselves as ministers of God in much patience, in afflictions in necessities, in distresses, in strips, in imprisonments...”

2nd Timothy 2: 9 “If we suffer, we shall also reign with him, if we deny him, he also will deny us...”

2nd Timothy 3: 2 “...all that live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”

1st Peter But and if ye suffer for righteousness sake happy are ye.”

But Jesus said that we would never be forsaken! God forsook Jesus so we would never be forsaken!

Hebrews 13: 5-6 He will never forsake us therefore fear not what man shall do unto me...