

October 29th, 2017

DIFFERENT Different Perspective In Persecution Terry Baldwin



[TITLE SLIDE:]

Ryan Murphy asked if today's message was going to be good....

TODAY - The most Encouraging message.... That you never ever wanted to here!

In other words... this message has some Good news & some Bad news

JOKE: Doctor: I have some good news and I have some bad news.
Patient: What's the good news?
Doctor: The good news is that the tests you took showed that you have 24 hours to live.
Patient: That's the good news? What's the bad news?
Doctor: The bad news is that I forgot to call you yesterday!

JOKE: Doctor: I have good news and bad news
Patient: OK doc, well, give me the good news first.
Doctor: They're going to name a disease after you.

This is the most Encouraging Message you never wanted to hear

**JESUS PROMISED US a lot of things in His word
But what He NEVER promised us.....**

- Kids will always make wise decisions
- not Rain on your Vacation
- wouldn't get Headaches
- Car won't break down
- Everybody would be Rich

BUT Jesus DID PROMISED us.....

If you faithfully follow Him... If you are set apart and Different from this world...
Jesus promised that **you would be persecuted** and the **world would hate you!**



[John 15.18, 20 NIV] Jesus speaking.....

If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you....

If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.

- If we look like the world... they will love us as their own
- But if you're TRUE FOLLOWER of Jesus.....
 - You will be Different in so many ways
 - Because you follow Jesus you WILL NOT BE LOVED!
 - You Belong to Jesus... Be comforted

Book of 1 Peter

Peter is writing to Gentile Christians under persecution for following Jesus
.....Describe

Statistics Today

- Experts believe last 10 years has been the WORST Persecution in history
- On average THIS MONTH 300+ Christians will be murdered
- 200+ church buildings destroyed
- 700+ people.... Beaten / Imprisoned / Raped

What Does Persecution Look Like??Depends on where you live...

On one part of the world you MIGHT.....

- Lose FAMILY / Lose your JOB
- Body MUTILATED / House BURNED
- ARRESTED & BEATEN / Not INVITED to PARTY

Persecution is whenever you suffer for following Jesus

We are going to talk about:

A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE IN PERSECUTION



[1 Peter 4.12 NLT]

Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you.

You're a Faithful Christian.....

Don't be Surprised when..... you face Opposition

BREAK IT DOWN:

Imagine you have Larry Bird skills.....

- Sitting on bench / Texting / Talking to cheerleaders / Ordering HotDog
- Would other team be concerned with you??.....**NO**

- What if you remove warmup suite and enter game with BIRD SKILLS....
- Would other team be concerned with you??.....**YES!!**

Same is true when it comes to Spiritual Things

You as Jesus Follower may go to church now and then....

- You're sitting on the bench.... But you're not really engaged
- Not Praying big prayers believing God for His Miraculous power
- Not using your Gifts for God
- Not giving to others generously
- Not Sharing your Faith

.....You believe you're on the team.... just simply on the bench

Do you think your Spiritual enemy is concerned with you??..... NO

BUT, WHAT IF - You Removed warmup suite....

- Start using your Gifts

- Sharing AWESOME NEWS of Jesus
- PRAYER WARRIOR.... WORSHIPPER....

Do you think your enemy is going to take notice??... YES

Dear friends, don't be surprised.... that's how is going to happen!!

- Don't be upset when **CRITICIZED** Things **GO WRONG**
- Like a soldier freaked out when shot at... "I didn't know!!!"



**CHRISTIANITY IS NOT A PLAYGROUND....
BUT A BATTLEGROUND**

- We are fighting a Spiritual Enemy!!!
- And when you're engaged... *Don't be surprised at these Fiery Trials*
Peter could be talking Literally about FIRE!!!



[V.O.M. Video]

NEXT SUNDAY is the National Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church through out the world.

If Peter were writing to TODAY... He would CONTEXTUALIZE

- To Middle East Christian /

Don't be surprised if Christians are **BEHEADED**

Don't be surprised if Family members **REJECT** / try to **KILL** /

- To Sate College Girl /

Don't be surprised if you're **Not Asked Out 2nd Date** because of Purity

- To YOU at your Job /

Don't be surprised if they **Make Fun** behind your back or...

Bypassed for Promotion

.....Don't be surprised at Fiery Trials



[1 Peter 4.13 NLT]

Instead, **be very glad** (rejoice, thank God when you're persecuted) —for these trials make you partners with Christ in His suffering, (you have the honor in some way suffering as Jesus) so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing His glory when it is revealed to all the world.

Why is it that so many have NOT really Suffered to any degree??

So many of us are seeking ABOVE ALL ELSE....



COMFORT / EASE / PLEASURE We may not say it

.....I'd rather have a easy day than hard

- Because of that... I will **AVOID** Confrontations / Trials / Struggles

- SO... you'll laugh at discolored Jokes.... even when you know it's Wrong

- Don't want the persecution of saying that was wrong

- College Students will go ahead and Experiment with the others....

- Much EASIER than explaining you view

- Don't want to be thought of as weird...Not Comfortable

- Maybe you keep your Faith QUITE...

- No Tension... No potential arguments...

DEEP DOWN we want COMFORT - EASE - PLEASURE

TWO CYCLES

Cycle ONE

1. **Pursue Comfort** (what do need to do to bee comfort..)
2. **Avoid Opposition** (to be comfort)unfortunately
3. **Faith Weakens** (tends to weaken rather than built up)
4. **Life is Empty** - So you pursue more comfort..... (avoid.. weaken.. etc.)

If I can be honest and you can be... this is where I sort-of am

On the other hand.....

Peter is calling 1st century Christians

- Called to be Holy as God is holy
- Set Apart
- This World is NOT your home
- Because you're heavenly being... we follow heavenly King

When you are FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING Jesus...

- People criticize... you face opposition....
- It starts to build something in you.....
 - "I'm doing something right"... It strengthens you
 - You're in a 2nd cycle that looks more like this...

Cycle TWO Instead of.....

1. **Live Boldly** - for Jesus... Follow teaching.
2. **Face Opposition** - I don't know what to say... trust God what to say)
3. **Faith Strengthen** - God came through... I feel closer... Something inside
4. **Closer to Christ** - Sense He is with you.... live boldly for Him

QUESTION: Which best represents your last week?

Peter says.



[1 Peter 4.19 NLT]

So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you.

.....Keep on doing what is right!



DO WHAT IS RIGHT AND TRUST GOD WITH THE RESULTS

- Do RIGHT at WORK... Trust God with Results
- SCHOOL / FAMILY / BOY-GIRL FRIEND Trust God

QUESTION: Do you worry about America becoming Darker & Darker??

- Persecution never weakens that church... always STRENGTHENS
- China in 40's... Started major persecution
- 1 million - 10 million - today 80 Million+

A Little Persecution may not be BAD THING for Western Church

- Where we live it's so easy to claim to be Christian
- Many claim it but don't live it....
- **Little Persecution will cause you to make a Choice**

.....Can be good thing



[1 Peter 5.5b-7 NLT]

...God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time He will lift you up in honor. Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you.

- Word GIVE here actually means CAST... like Fishing Net

- Take what is **Burdening** you.... cast onto God

- CHILDREN

- FINANCIAL... Do what is right and Trust God

- PHYSICAL...



[1 Peter 5.10b-11 NLT]

...So after you have suffered a little while, (this suffering will NOT last forever) He will restore, support, and strengthen you, and He will place you on a firm foundation. All power to Him forever! Amen.

- So AFTER you suffer.... He will make BETTER!!!

- HURTING / DISCOURAGED / OVERWHELMED

END

God is calling you to be Different

