

The Repercussion of Righteousness

Matthew 5:10

It's clear by now that Jesus wasn't giving a 'formula' for a _____, _____ life in the Beatitudes!

Instead, we see in Jesus' words the cumulative description of the faithful, God-honoring life of a _____ of Jesus – a life that has the approval of and will receive the reward of God.

And as this final Beatitude makes clear, that's a life that the world/culture _____.

The poor in spirit ...

The mourning and repentant ...

The gentle and meek ...

The spiritually hungry ...

The merciful ...

The pure and single-focused ...

The peacemaker ...

In a real sense, this final Beatitude is like a _____ of all those that preceded it. It is the _____ that we really are _____.

¹⁸ "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. (John 15:18-20a)

¹² Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted ... (1 Tim 3:12)

We must accept that persecution is by God's _____ and _____.

Persecution _____ us.

Persecution _____ us.

If I never experience any persecution at all, it's fair to ask if the life of Christ is being displayed in my life.

What is persecution?

Two categories: _____ and _____ ...

Two warnings: Don't _____ it. Don't _____ it.

What persecution merits the favor/blessing/reward of God?

Two conditions: Being _____ Christ and being _____ to Christ.

One promise: Great _____!

Am I ready for persecution?

Have I counted the _____ and reckoned the _____ of Christ?

Am I prepared for the _____ and _____ of unbelievers (and even other Christians)?

Am I _____ to other believers who will help me endure _____?

Why are we commanded to "rejoice and be glad" about persecution? (And how can we do that?)

Why:

Persecution – for the right reasons – _____ the authenticity of my faith.

Persecution puts me in elite and enviable _____!

Persecution now means "great" rewards _____ (not just in) eternity!

How:

Refuse to become _____.

Redefine the _____.

Meanwhile, what can I do about persecution?

I can _____ for my persecuted brothers and sisters.

I can _____ to my persecuted brothers and sisters.

I can speak up and out, I can vote, and I can do all in my power for the sake of the persecuted.

And I can refuse to _____ to persecution, which will only make life _____ for other Christians.

My response to God today: