

MESSAGE: Persecuted for the Gospel

TEXT: 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

October 24, 2021

Pastor Cory Anderson

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

Introduction:

And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers. ¹⁴ For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews, ¹⁵ who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out, and displease God and oppose all mankind ¹⁶ by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved—so as always to fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them at last! But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, ¹⁸ because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us. ¹⁹ For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? ²⁰ For you are our glory and joy.

Conclusion:

How is it possible for this passage to find its way into our lives?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

1. Have you ever experienced persecution because of the gospel? Describe what happened.

2. Do you find it difficult to relate to what is said by Paul in 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20?

3. What did Jesus have to say about persecution (See Matthew 5:1-12; 10:16-39)?

4. What did Paul have to say about persecution (1 Thessalonians 3:3-4; 2 Timothy 3:12)?

5. Why do you think we have a lack of persecution in Canada?

6. What did Jesus tell the disciples to do in Acts 1:8? Acts 1:8 refers to Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and the ends of the earth. At what point in the book of Acts did the gospel move from Jerusalem to Judea and Samaria? What happened in Acts 8:1 to cause the gospel to spread? Does this need to happen today?

7. At times Christians express concerns about 'optics' or how we are seen by the world. Is it possible that being overly concerned about what the world thinks is one of the reasons Christians are not persecuted? Is it possible we are living far too safe?

8. At the end of the message Pastor Cory gave five suggestions for how 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20 can find its way into our lives. What were some of the suggestions? What do you think about these suggestions?