

John 16:1-7
July 30, 1989
Rome Georgia
January 3, 2016

I. THE PROMISE OF PERSECUTION 1-3

II. THE PREPARATION FOR PARTING 4-6

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I. THE PROMISE OF PERSECUTION - 2

A. CLEARLY STATED - 15:18-27 QUICK REVIEW

B. ULTIMATELY DEMONSTRATED

Acts 6:9-15.

Stephen was a **Righteous man**. He had a special relationship to the Father. v. **10**. **Then 11-13** - false witnesses. v. **15** his countenance.

His sermon, convicted the hearts of these wicked religious men the point that they had to stop up their ears with their hands, and ultimately, they **stoned** him to death **7:57ff**.

Stephen was in the reproofing, rebuking, exhorting, expounding and long suffering business long before Paul gave his charge to his spiritual son Timothy. *(with a hat tip to the ordination of Gary McAlister this evening.)*

Acts 7:59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

Stephen had a special relationship with his heavenly Father. By his actions and his sermons, he was a convicting influence on the hearts of darkness in his day. And, Stephen looked for the glory to come. **He was not concerned about the praise of men, but rather, he chose to please God, and receive that reward which is promised to all who will come after Him**

(Cf. previous messages on **John 15:18ff**. for this same basic "outline of hatred.")

STEPHEN WAS NOT ALONE IN HIS MARTYRDOM.

Acts 12:1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex CERTAIN OF THE CHURCH. And he killed **James the brother of John** with the sword. And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take **Peter** also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

Acts 9:1-4 And **Saul**, yet breathing out THREATENINGS AND SLAUGHTER AGAINST THE DISCIPLES OF THE LORD, went unto the high priest, and desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, **WHY PERSECUTEST THOU ME?**

WAIT A MINUTE - CHRIST WAS ASCENDED - HE WAS NOT THERE:

IT WAS:

"DISCIPLES OF THE LORD"

"CERTAIN OF THE CHURCH"

YET CHRIST ASKED **SAUL** - **"WHY PERSECUTEST THOU ME"**

The Reason For This Is That In This Age, The Church Is The Body Of Christ - And That Which Is Done, Even To The Least Of Those Who Name The Name Of Christ, Is Done Unto The Lord Himself.

Ephesians 1:22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to **THE CHURCH, WHICH IS HIS BODY**, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.

Matthew 25:40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, **Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.**

THOSE WHO PERSECUTE THE CHURCH - PERSECUTE CHRIST - AND THOSE WHO PERSECUTE CHRIST, DO SO BECAUSE THEY DO NOT KNOW GOD!

John 16:3 And these things will they do unto you, BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN THE FATHER, NOR ME.

(CF. **15:21** **But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me**)

SAUL, WHO AT ONE TIME PERSECUTED THE CHURCH, ULTIMATELY BECAME **PAUL** - THE DEFENDER OF THE FAITH.

AT ONE TIME, ZEALOUS AS HE WAS FOR THE RELIGION OF THE JEW, HE WAS **IGNORANT OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD.**

HE KNEW **RELIGIOUS FORM BUT NOT THE RIGHTEOUS FATHER!**

WHEN PAUL CAME TO KNOW JESUS - HIS EYES OF UNDERSTANDING WERE OPENED AND HE COULD SEE CLEARLY FOR THE FIRST TIME.

Romans 10:1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record **that THEY HAVE A ZEAL OF GOD, BUT NOT ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGE. FOR THEY BEING IGNORANT OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND GOING ABOUT TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS, HAVE NOT SUBMITTED THEMSELVES UNTO THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.**

II .THE PREPERATION FOR PARTING 4 – 6

A. SAFETY IN THE SAVIOR. -

16:4b When Jesus was with them, the wrath of the religious was directed against **Him personally**. After his departure it would be turned **toward His disciples, the church**.

Jesus warned them of the wrath to come so that they would not be taken by surprise.

Here is the answer to the "**WHY ME** " **question** that so many people ask of God when hard times come.

John 16:4 But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, **YE MAY REMEMBER THAT I TOLD YOU OF THEM . . .**

BUT THOUGH THERE IS **SAFETY IN THE SAVIOR** - THERE IS YET . .

B. SUFFERING FOR THE SAVIOR

John 15:18 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

John 15:20 ". . . the servant is not greater than His Lord . . . "

PETER, WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED AFTER THE DEATH OF JAMES, (CF. **ACTS 12:3** ABOVE) **HAD THIS TO SAY ABOUT UNEXPECTED DIFFICULTIES IN LIFE:**

I Peter 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are **partakers of Christ's sufferings**; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

Whenever hard times come in a believer's life, we need to accept the difficulty as if it was directly from the hand of God - for in fact, it is permitted by Him for our benefit.

After enduring some heartbreaking experiences, a **Spirit-filled missionary** was asked how he could be so cheerful.

He replied that if someone had sent him on a journey and warned him that he would come first to a dangerous crossing of a river and then to a forest infested with wild beasts, when he finally arrived at those points of danger, he would do so with a sense of satisfaction. It would be proof to him that he was on "the right road."

He went on to say that the Lord had predicted that Christians would have "much tribulation." **So when the difficulties came, they encouraged him, for he knew he was walking the narrow path of God's choosing."** *db 6-16-70*

Jesus knew that the disciples would face many heartaches in the days to come. First would be his arrest and crucifixion.

But he also knew of the necessity for these events:

- it was necessary for him to die for the sins off the world

- it was necessary for him to rise again
- it was necessary for him to ascend visibly into heaven

For without these events –

- He could not be our advocate and our intercessor.
- It is from on high where he fulfills his role as our high priest, the author and finisher of our faith.
- Without his death and resurrection, we ourselves could have no hope of a future resurrection.
- and without his death and departure - we would not have the Holy Spirit. For it is from his place at the right hand of the father that Jesus sent forth the Spirit to be our "comforter." **John 16:7**

WE DON'T ALWAYS KNOW WHY CERTAIN THINGS HAPPEN - BUT WE ALSO MAY HAVE CONFIDENCE IN GOD THAT THEY HAPPEN FOR THE ULTIMATE BENEFIT OF THE BODY OF CHRIST.

THE APOSTLES GRIEVED OVER THE DEPARTURE OF THE LORD - YET IT WAS FOR THEIR ULTIMATE GOOD!

III. THE PROMISE OF THE PARACLETE V 7

A. THE DEPARTURE OF THE SON BENEFITED THE BODY

John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; IT IS EXPEDIENT FOR YOU THAT I GO AWAY: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

IT IS "GOOD" FOR YOU THAT I GO AWAY. IT IS BENEFICIAL AND PROFITABLE.

IT WAS NECESSARY FOR CHRIST TO DIE IN ORDER FOR ATONEMENT TO BE MADE. AND IT WAS LIKEWISE NECESSARY FOR CHRIST TO GO - IN ORDER THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT MIGHT COME AND "APPLY THE ATONEMENT" (8-11).

B. THE ARRIVAL OF THE SPIRIT BENEFITS THE BODY

HE IS OUR **PARACLETE - OUR COUNSELOR - OUR ADVOCATE.**

BUT BEFORE HE COULD COME - IT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE SON TO RETURN TO THE FATHER!

HERE WERE THE DISCIPLES. IN A FEW HOURS, JESUS WOULD BE TAKEN FROM THEM. SORROW WOULD RULE IN THEIR HEARTS. BUT HE ALSO TOLD THEM:

“ and ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.” **John 16:22**

A FEW DAYS AFTER HIS DEATH WAS HIS RESURRECTION, THEN THE ASCENSION –
(*Imagine what it must have been like to have seen him taken up into glory!*)

AND IN THE SAME MANNER - HE WILL RETURN!

THE CHURCH ALONG WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL BE WITHDRAWN.

CHRIST WILL RETURN.

“And people who do not know the Lord ask why in the world we waste our lives as missionaries. They forget that they too are expending their lives... and when the bubble has burst they will have nothing of eternal significance to show for the years they have wasted.”

Read more at: <http://www.azquotes.com/quote/581834> - **Nate Saint**.

(see also see **Jim Elliot** quotes in Illus. Folder)