

The Bible Can Be Expensive

MATTHEW 5:10-12



The Bible

This book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable.

Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here Paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand object, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. *(continued)*

It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it frequently and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a Paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened in the judgment, and will be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.

– *Author Unknown*

William Tyndale was burned at the stake because he translated the Bible from Latin into English. He wanted English people to be able to read God's Word in their language.

His famous saying when he was being persecuted by religious authorities for translating the Bible is this: "If God spare my life, ere many years I will cause the boy who drives the plough to know more of the Scriptures than you do."

Polycarp, Bishop of the church in Smyrna [the church listed in Revelation 2:8-11] was put to death because he would not deny Christ.

He said just before his death these famous words, “Eighty and six years have I served Christ, nor has He done me any harm. How, then, could I blaspheme my King who saved me?”

Matthew 5:10-12

Jesus is saying in this Beatitude and other statements that Persecution can become a potential consequence of following Him as a believer.

The Pretext of Persecution

- Satan is the source of Persecution. – Revelation 12:10
- Jesus is the Person who is being persecuted. John 15:18-21
- The Bible is the Book of Jesus and Salvation and Satan thinks that it must be destroyed.
- The world system hates anything that opposes it. 1 John 2:15-16

The Prediction of Persecution

- Jesus' words in this Beatitude
- Matthew 10:16-17; 24:9
- John 15:20
- 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 12

The Pattern of Persecution

- There is opposition to the truth.
- There is the attack on the Bible.
- There is demeaning and opposition to the name of Jesus.
- There is the incarceration of Christian and deaths.
- Question: Are we in America going to face persecution?

The Promise Jesus Gives about Persecution

- Jesus is our Friend who has promised to be with us.
- The story of Corrie Ten Boom, persecuted during the Nazi holocaust.