

PERSEVERANCE UNDER PERSECUTION

2 Thessalonians 1:4-8

I. PERSEVERANCE BY FAITH (Verses 4 & 5)

The ability to persevere is a measure of your dependence upon the Holy Spirit (*vs.4b*)

Their perseverance and faith was an example for countless other believers (*vs.4a*)

God gives a blessing to believers who endure by faith (*vs.5; Heb.12:1; Rom.12:12; Jas.1:2-4, 12*)

You will be strengthened spiritually and mentally and you will be blessed by God (*1 Pet.2:20*)

II. PERSECUTION AND AFFLICTION (Verses 4c, 5c, 6c)

All who live godly will suffer persecution (*John 15:20; 2 Tim.3:12*)

Expect insults, ridicule, slander, and physical ill treatment when you live for Christ (*Mat.5:10-12*)

Expect various forms of affliction as a part of daily living (*2 Cor.7:5; Heb.11:37*)

III. RETRIBUTION OR RELIEF (Verses 6-8)

God will bring every unbeliever to justice in His final courtroom (*vs.6,8*)

God will bring you relief when He returns in power and glory (*vs.7*)

21ST CENTURY APPLICATION

How do you respond under pressure? Take a few moments to consider the following questions. Write after each question your qualitative response – i.e. yes, no, sometimes, never, often, etc.

In what ways do you respond when you face ridicule for your faith?

Do you draw back?

Do you lash out in retaliation?

Do you grit your teeth and take it?

Do you give it to the Lord for an appropriate response?

In what ways do you respond when you are undergoing some natural affliction?

Complain about it?

Argue with God about it?

Worry about it?

Trust the Lord to work His purpose in it?

Evaluate each of your responses and consider if there are any areas of your life which need modification. You might want to circle or highlight areas of concern to you.