

Persecution and Boldness

Acts 4:13-31

- Review from last week - 2 Timothy 3:12 - Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.
 - James 1:2 - "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance, and let endurance have its perfect result so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."
 - James 1:12 - "Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial, for once he has been approved, having stood the test, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him."
 - 1 Peter 4:12-19 The purpose of the fiery ordeal - to Glorify
 1. The Persecution and Arrest of the Apostles - Acts 4:1-4
 2. The Protest of the Sanhedrin - Acts 4:5-7
 3. The Proclamation of Peter - Acts 4:8-1
4. Perseverance at All Costs - Acts 4:14-22
- a. The fulfilment of Jesus faithful promise - Luke 21:14-15 "So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves; for I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute."
 - b. We are to obey the government until they clearly oppose the Word of God.
 - c. Romans 13:1-7 compared to Exodus 1:15-17 the Hebrew midwives and Daniel 6:4-10
 - d. 1 Peter 3:13-15 - Be Ready to give a reasoned response of the Hope of Christ in you
5. Participation in the Gospel, Fellowship with Thankfulness - Acts 4:23-28
- a. The praise of God for His Sovereign care and control over all the events of life
 - b. The fulfilment of Psalm 2 in the these events as told beforehand by David
 - c. In Isaiah during our study we saw multiple times how God declares the future events as a testimony to Him being the Only True God - Isaiah 40:21, 42:9, 46:10 and John 17:3
 - d. The initial fulfilment and the future fulfilment in Revelation 17:9-14 then the second coming in Revelation 19:11-21
6. Pray for Greater Boldness - Acts 4:29-31
- a. The Church became bolder through prayer and was filled with the Holy Spirit
 - b. May we be known as Peter and John were known as having been with Jesus
 - c. Acts 4:13 and John 17:13-21