

2 Timothy 3:12-15

Memo to the Godly

Your best desire ...

I. Persecution

A. Roots

B. Sources

C. Degrees

II. Godly Living

A. Simple

B. Scrutinized

C. Sometimes Despised

III. And the Resolute Saint

A. Blessed

B. Resolved

C. Rewarded

... does not go unnoticed.

Children, Listen ...

1. What does it mean to “live godly?”

2. What are some different ways people who don’t believe in Jesus may feel about godly people?

3. What is persecution?

4. We can be thankful that we aren’t terribly persecuted for being Christians where we live. But many Christians suffer every day, and some die for their faith. Will you take a moment today to pray with someone in your family for God’s people that are being persecuted?

A “Strange” Blessing

There are so many references in the Bible to saints suffering for being believers, that no follower of the Lord should be surprised should they be subjected to persecution. The fact of the matter is, that throughout history and across the globe today, many of our brothers and sisters suffer for following Christ to degrees varying from moderate to severe. They need our prayers and support. Tides are definitely changing in the U.S., but we can be thankful that the experience of suffering for the sake of Jesus is minimal if not non-existent for us. We must never take this for granted and appreciate the “strange” blessing such luxuriant peace is. That said, even in our culture, if we are truly living openly godly lives, unashamed by belonging to Jesus, there will be elements of friction with unbelievers who are observing us. We have the privilege of being witnesses for Christ, and that may well include the blessedness of suffering on account of Christ. In light of that, be prepared, stand firm, and continue undeterred from pursuing a life that honors the One Who died for you.