



ACCM

Bible Study: Thursday, February 28, 2019.

TOPIC: Temptation, Trials, Tribulation and Persecution Part 7

PERSECUTION

Text: Acts 5:17-40

What is Persecution? An unfair or cruel treatment meted on someone else because of hatred due to differences in ideology, race, gender, political affiliations, religious belief, moral stand etc. In Christianity persecution could be seen as harassment, withdrawal of rights, imprisonment and sometimes outright death.

For more than two hundred years, Nero and many other kings of Rome persecuted the Christians. It was Constantine that eased the persecutions and the suffering of the believers.

It was not unusual in Nigeria in the 70s to see parents and families persecute a member of the family who is a Christian.

The major difference between trials and persecution is that why trials will come, persecution could come.

Persecution could be subtle or direct.

Since persecution could come through so many sources, we are going to limit our discussion to Christian persecution.

a). **What is Christian Persecution?** The persecution one goes through because of his or her Christian belief. Examples in the Bible are Daniel, Shadrach Meshach, Abednego, Paul, Peter, John Daniel etc.

b). **List or give examples of Christian persecution you can think about.**

c). **Classification of Persecution (The parties responsible for persecution)**

1. Domestic Persecution: Gen 39: 19-20
2. Civic persecution. Acts 4:1-3, 16-18, Daniel 6:5-10. There are more than 50 countries in the world where Christians are persecuted today.
3. Professional or career persecution.
4. Social persecution, Luke 6:22, Matt 5:11
5. Persecution by spiritual authority. Acts 4:1-3.

d). **Why do persecutions come?**

1. Envy and hatred – Acts 5:17-18, Daniel 6:1-4.
2. Superior confrontations: Jeremiah 38:1-6. Jeremiah in the dungeon
3. Fear for cultural or spiritual shift Acts 5:27-28
4. To curtail the spread of the Gospel. Acts 5:40

5. Resisting non godly laws by the establishment: Daniel 3:14-16
6. Lack of tactics by believers. Matthew 10:16, Acts 7:51-60

CONCLUSION: Persecution could come to a believer from anywhere and at any time. Just like trials, the first thing to do is to examine yourself and ensure that you are not in the wrong. When you are sure that this is persecution, then design plans to survive. These plans we will be talking about at the next meeting.