

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE CHURCH (IBC) LINZ

Flötzerweg 156 (Neue Heimat) 4030 Linz

...then you shall know the truth and the truth will set you free Jn. 8:32

SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

09:10:16

Theme: Counsel For The Persecuted

Memory Verse: *First Peter chapter three verse fourteen: But and if ye suffer for righteousness sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;*

Texts: 1Peter 3:13-16

In concluding the beatitude, the Lord gave timeless counsel to those who are persecuted. Believers should rejoice and count themselves fortunate or blessed when they face persecution. Such joy is only possible if one is totally separated from the world and the mind set on things above. Carnal Christians cannot rejoice in persecution. Those who use material prosperity and outward show, as a standard of kingdom blessing cannot but recoil at the scriptural teaching on persecution.

But let those who suffer ensure that it is for the sake of righteousness, and that the accusations of the world false. In no wise should the offender, facing the just punishment he or she deserves for his or her crime, claim the beatitude of the persecuted.

Finally, persecuted believers should have the attitude of non-retaliation. In the beatitude, Christ emphasized the spiritual nature of God's kingdom the uselessness of seeking to gain the world at the expense of the heavenly kingdom. By struggle and forcing one can get into problem. Would all those things be comparing with the great reward spoken of by Christ? The disciple should follow the example of the Master who endured persecution like a lamb dumb before its sharers. This is the pathway of blessing.

The question is the persecution you are facing; today in your life is it for righteousness? If not then there is no blessing for you.

Let us all read Mathew 5:11,12 with meaning.