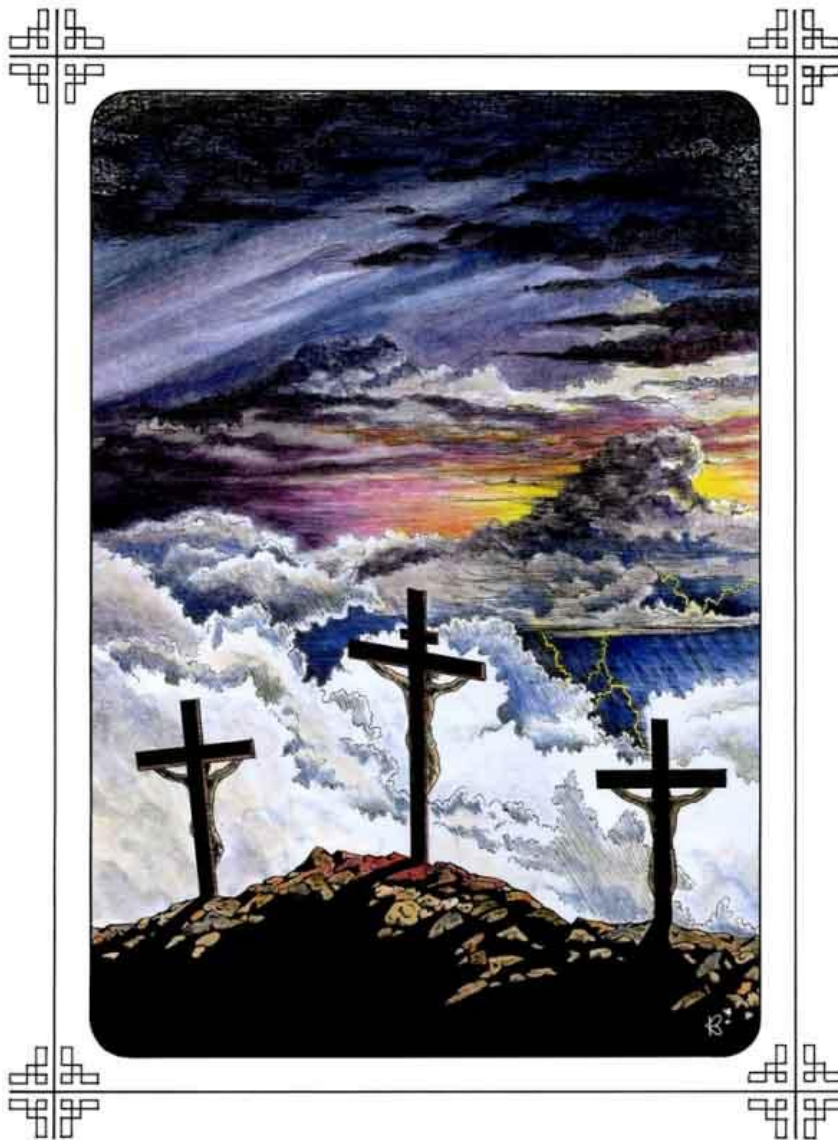


PROGRESSING TOGETHER



105 PERSECUTION



Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.'
If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.

John 15:20

E.R.B. - B.P. 112
F-13425 MARSEILLE CEDEX 12
FRANCE
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PERSECUTION

Introduction

Jesus tells us: “... *I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you*” (John 15:19b). For those who follow the Lord Jesus, persecution comes in many forms, but all have their source in the hatred that this world has for the Lord Jesus and those who love Him.

This course is intended to help us understand why believers in Jesus Christ are persecuted, what our attitude should be toward persecution, and how the Lord wants us to live when we are persecuted.

This course consists of five lessons:

Lessons:	
❶	Our God is great: Nothing can separate us from His love!
❷	Jesus taught that His disciples would be persecuted.
❸	Jesus taught about where our priorities should be.
❹	The apostles themselves and the New Testament Church applied this teaching of Jesus.
❺	Jesus, Himself, is our example in suffering.

1

PERSECUTION

Our God is great. Nothing can separate us from His love!

Name: _____

Date: _____



Read Romans 8:16-39 carefully.

①

In verses 35-39 Paul lists several things that some people might think capable of separating us from the love of Christ.




Explain each one in your own words.

Which ones have you experienced in your own life? Describe briefly what happened.


②

What future blessings does God have for us?


Why do you think the Apostle Paul used the word "*glorious*" to describe these blessings? (verses 17 to 23)


- ③  For whom does God work all things together for good?


Do you belong to this group of people? If you say “yes”, how does that happen according to verses 28-30?

-
- ④  To what has God predestined us? (verse 29)

How does this verse (8.29) help us to understand the fact that “all things work together for the good” of the elect in verse 28?

-
- ⑤  What assurance or comfort does this passage personally give you when confronted by the difficulties of this world?

-
- ⑥  The life of Joseph, the son of Jacob, is a real-life example of Romans 8:28 from the Old Testament. It is given to us in the Old Testament. You can read the parallel verse: Genesis 50:20. These words of Joseph, based on his own experience of injustice and suffering, amplify Romans 8:28 by telling us that God even uses

 _____ for _____ for those who love Him. (fill in the blanks).

 **You can read the story of Joseph in Genesis chapters 37 and 39-50.**

2

PERSECUTION**Jesus taught that his disciples would be persecuted**

Name : _____

Date : _____

**Read John 15:18 to 16:4 and Matthew 5:10-12, and 43-45 carefully.**

①

Give three reasons why this world hates those who follow Jesus. Base your answer on what Jesus said in John 15:18-21.

②



In John 15:21, who is the One who sent Jesus?

(Tick the right answer)

<input type="checkbox"/>	God the Father
<input type="checkbox"/>	the Holy Spirit
<input type="checkbox"/>	the angel Gabriel

Jesus said: "*They will treat you this way because of my name.*" Explain how this is true in your personal experience.

③



How is it possible that people can kill followers of Jesus and in so doing think that they are offering a service to God? Base your answer on John 16:1-4.

- ④ ✍ In the midst of what kinds of persecution does God promise blessing? Tick the correct answers based on Matthew 5:10-12.

<input type="checkbox"/>	persecution because the person is virtuous and righteous,
<input type="checkbox"/>	persecution because the person is a follower of Jesus,
<input type="checkbox"/>	persecution because the person believes in God,
<input type="checkbox"/>	persecution because the person prays.

-
- ⑤ ✍ According to Matthew 5:44-45, what should we do to those who persecute us?

Why?

3

PERSECUTION
Jesus taught what our priorities should be

Name: _____

Date : _____



Read Mark 8:31-38 and Matthew 10:16-39 carefully.

- ① ✓ In Mark 8:34-38, Jesus says that we must take up our cross and follow Him. According to the context, this means (choose the best answer)

	that I must die as a martyr crucified like Jesus was
	that I must die to my own interests and plans and live for Jesus and the gospel.
	that I must carry a wooden cross around with me in life or wear a cross round my neck.

- ② ✍️ What does it mean to be “*ashamed of Jesus and His words*” (Mark 8:38)?


Give a practical example.

- ③ ✍️ Explain Matthew 10:16 in your own words.

According to Matthew 10:17-20, for what reason does God allow us to be brought before government officials?


About what are we not to worry?


④  **Read Matthew 10:28-39.**

 According to verses 28 to 31, whom are we not to be afraid of and why?

Give an example of how we can “acknowledge” Jesus before men (verse 32):

and an example of how we can disown Jesus before men (verse 33).

⑤  Matthew 10:37-39 is the key to understanding the preceding verses 34-36. We are to love Jesus more than anything else, including our own family and even our own life. This doesn't mean that we stop loving them, but we are to love Jesus more.

 If we live this way, what might the result be? (verse 36)

4


PERSECUTION
The Apostles themselves and the New Testament Church
applied this teaching of Jesus


Name _____

Date : _____



Read Acts 5:12-42 carefully.

①  Why did the religious leaders arrest the apostles and put them in prison ? (verse 17)

②  The High Priest and his associates had given the apostles strict orders not to teach in Jesus' name. (4:18). But they did anyway and were arrested and put in prison. That night the Lord sent an angel to release them from prison.

 What did the apostles do immediately the next morning? (verse 21)

Why? (5:20 and 4:19-20)

③  What does: "We must obey God rather than men" mean? (verse 29)

Give a possible real life situation for which a believer in your country would have to follow this principle.

④ ✍️ When men fight against us because we teach about Jesus, who are they really fighting against? (verse 39)

⑤ ✍️ Why did the apostles rejoice after leaving the presence of the Sanhedrin?

What did they continue doing? (verse 42)

5

PERSECUTION
Jesus himself is our example in suffering

Name : _____

Date : _____



Read 1 Peter 2:19-25, 4:12-19, 5:5-11 carefully.

① 

Not all suffering is commendable to God.



Explain what this means according to 1 Peter 2:19-21.



In 2:21, Peter says that we are to follow in Christ's footsteps regarding unjust suffering.



From the context how did Christ respond to suffering? (2:20b-23)

② 

Using verses 4:12-19, tick the correct answers. A person who suffers for being a believer in Jesus-Christ ...

<input type="checkbox"/>	should be surprised,
<input type="checkbox"/>	can rejoice,
<input type="checkbox"/>	is blessed by the Spirit of God,
<input type="checkbox"/>	should praise God for the privilege of bearing the name of Jesus Christ,
<input type="checkbox"/>	should not be ashamed
<input type="checkbox"/>	should stop doing good,
<input type="checkbox"/>	cannot be suffering according to God's will.

- ③ ✍️ What should we do with all our anxieties? (5:7) How is this possible? Take time right now and put this verse into practice!!!

- ④ ✍️ According to 5.9, choose the correct statements from among the following:

	I am the only one who is going through this kind of suffering for Christ.
	There are many other brothers in Christ throughout the whole world who suffer just as I am for Christ.
	While I am suffering for Christ, I am to resist the devil and stand firm in the faith

- ⑤ ✍️ The suffering that we endure is for a “*little while*”. What things will the Lord do for us after we have suffered? (5:10)

- ⑥ ✍️ Note what you have learned in the 5 Lessons of the this course on persecution and principally what you want to retain when you go through some tests for your faith in Christ.

🕯️ In his first epistle, Peter has a lot to say about suffering as a believer in Christ. If you have time, read the whole epistle and note the passages that teach directly about suffering.