

## THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

{Sunday, November 23, 2014 A.D.}

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+ God's people are greatly & eternally blessed, despite their having to suffer great biblical persecution.

### Matthew 5:10-12 (NASB95)

<sup>10</sup> "Blessed are those who have been **persecuted for the sake of righteousness**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you **because of Me**. <sup>12</sup> "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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+ It is certain that the body of Christ was / is / will be persecuted by those who reject His word.

### John 15:20-21 (NASB95)

<sup>20</sup> "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' **If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you**; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. <sup>21</sup> "But all these things they will do to you **for My name's sake**, because they do not know the One who sent Me.

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+ All true believers must be devoted to their Lord & Savior Jesus Christ with out any reservation whatsoever (whole-undivided heart). Their devotion is through their obedience of Scripture.

### Luke 9:23-26 (NASB95)

<sup>23</sup> And He was saying to *them* all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, **he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me**. <sup>24</sup> "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but **whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it**. <sup>25</sup> "For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself? <sup>26</sup> "**For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.**

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*+ Jesus Christ identifies intimately with His Bride whom He purchased with His own blood.*

**Acts 22:4-8 (NASB95)**

<sup>4</sup> "I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women into prisons, <sup>5</sup> as also the high priest and all the Council of the elders can testify. From them I also received letters to the brethren, and started off for Damascus in order to bring even those who were there to Jerusalem as prisoners to be punished. <sup>6</sup> "But it happened that as I was on my way, approaching Damascus about noontime, a very bright light suddenly flashed from heaven all around me, <sup>7</sup> and I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' <sup>8</sup> "And I answered, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said to me, 'I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you are persecuting.'

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*+ The True Church overcomes the world by the blood of her Lord & Savior Jesus Christ, the Word of God and by the living and holy sacrifice of their lives in worship.*

**Revelation 12:11 (NASB95)**

<sup>11</sup> "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.