

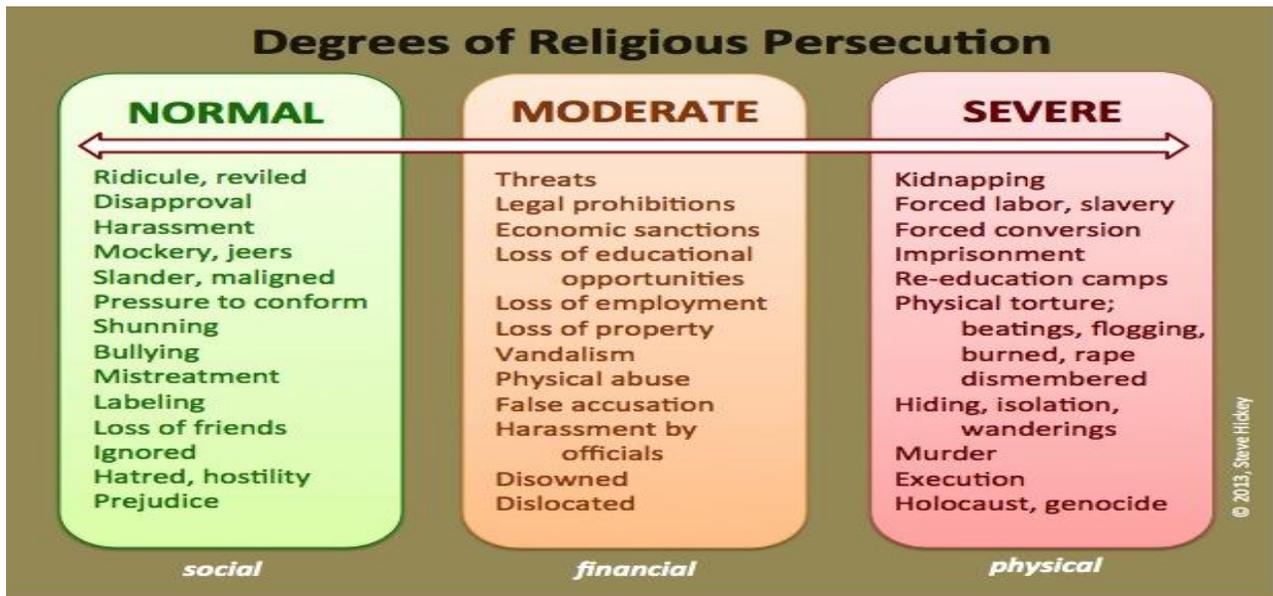
Crown Him Lord of All
Matt 5:10-12

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

per·se·cu·tion

Hostility and ill-treatment,
Because of race - political - religious beliefs

In 2000 years - 70 million believers killed
(45.5 million or 65% since 20th Century)
200 million Christians—vulnerable in the Middle East and Asia



- I. Persecution is the expected **result** of following Jesus. (v.10)

"Blessed are those who have been **persecuted** for the sake of righteousness, for **theirs is the kingdom of heaven**.

1. Expect persecution because the **teacher** was persecuted. (John 15:20)

"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;

2. Expect persecution because it is a **test** of your faith. (1 Peter 4:12)

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, **which comes upon you for your testing**, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

3. Expect persecution because the **truth** is offensive. (2 Peter 2:2)

Many will follow their sensuality, and **because of them the way of the truth will be maligned**;

- II. Persecution requires exercising **resolve** in following Jesus. (v.11)

"Blessed are you when people insult you and **persecute** you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you **because of Me**.

1. Exercising resolve is to be a desire of your **heart**. (2 Tim 3:12)

Indeed, **all who desire to live godly** in Christ Jesus will be **persecuted**.

2. Exercising resolve is to be a daily **choice**. (Luke 9:23)

"If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and **take up his cross daily and follow Me**.

3. Exercising resolve is to be demonstrated by **actions**. (1 Pet. 4:19)

Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall **entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right**.

- III. Persecution exalts Christ and is eternally **rewarded**. (v.12)

"Rejoice and be glad, for **your reward in heaven is great**; for in the same way they **persecuted** the prophets who were before you.

1. The Believers reward is the **crown** of life. (James 1:12)

Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, **he will receive the crown of life** which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

2. The Believers reward is the **crown** of righteousness. 2 Tim 4:7-8

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me **the crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

3. The Believers reward is the **crown** of glory. (1 Peter 5:4)
And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading **crown of glory**.

4. The Believers reward is the **crown** of exultation. (1 Thess. 2:19-20)

For who is ***our hope or joy or crown of exultation***? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? 20 For you are our glory and joy.

5. The Believers reward is the **crown** of victory. (Rev 3:11)

I am coming quickly; ***hold fast what you have***, so that no one will take your crown.

