



A NEW HOPE

#9 Persecution & Promise

1 Peter 4:12-19

3-6-22

1. Persecution: Part of Christian maturity is to _____ and _____ persecution.

- A. Persecution is normal for the Christian because Christ's way is not aimed at _____ so much as _____. Our target is not what it _____, but what is _____.

"Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.... Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me."

Matthew 10:34,37-38, NIV

- B. Christianity _____ with many practices most people are fine with and that implies _____. True goodness always makes _____ look _____.
- C. If you are not encountering any opposition in your attempts to obey God, perhaps _____ you side with Him.
- D. The wise Christian winningly _____ others into God's better will, instead of _____ them for their errors.

"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33, NIV

2. Promises: The Christian hope is not for the _____ of heart. However, _____ heart, it is for the _____!

- A. Suffering as a Christian reminds us we are his _____.

- B. Suffering as a Christian makes you _____.

- C. Suffering as a Christian makes your _____ toward others, which is more like Jesus.

Conclusion:

If you really want others to share in the truth of your faith you must be ready to suffer _____. Just plan on it. But you also have the _____ of God.