

Christianity On Trial

Acts 4:5-22

PART TWO

Introduction

1 Corinthians 4:12-13

“Bloodthirsty men hate one who is blameless and seek the life of the upright.” Proverbs 29:10

Biblical examples of those who hate the righteous without cause:

- Cain toward Abel (Gen. 4:8)
- Saul toward David (1 Sam. 20:30-33)
- Ahab toward Elijah (1 Kings 21:20)
- Ahab toward Micaiah (1 Kings 22:8)
- Herodias toward John the Baptist (Mark 6:18-19)

“Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth?” Galatians 4:16

John 15:18-20

1 John 3:12-14

What have we learned?

1. Persecution will happen to Christians striving to live a “godly life” (2 Tim. 3:12).
2. Persecution of all stripes is “granted” to you by divine appointment (Phil. 1:29).
3. Persecution is a “shared” experience together with Christ, so rejoice in it (1 Pet. 4:13).
4. Persecution is often necessary to produce vital spiritual growth (Rom. 5:3-4).
5. Persecution is God’s way of testing your faith (Jas. 1:2-3).

I. The Defense (vv8-12)

“filled with the Holy Spirit”

Luke 21:14-16

“if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed,” (v9)

John 10:32

“has been healed” Gk root *sozo* meaning: ‘to save, deliver, make whole, preserve safe from destruction.’

"let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well." (v10)

"whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead"

Who among the Sanhedrin could deny the resurrection?

Matthew 28:11-15

"This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone." (v11)

Taken from Psalm 118:22

Luke 20:16-18

1 Peter 2:6-8

"the builders" in Rabbinic literature is a figure of speech for teachers of the law.

The inquirers now become the accused in need of expiation. So Peter gives them the gospel!

"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (v12)

"salvation" Gk *soteria*

"saved" Gk *sothenai*; Using same root Gk word, *sozo*

Peter is now making it clear that this salvation, obtained through Jesus Christ alone, includes both miraculous physical healing and glorious spiritual healing!

"no other name"

"you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21

"everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name" Acts 10:43.

"we must be saved"

Romans 8:18

2 Corinthians 4:17-18