

# Persecution and the Sovereignty of God

Acts 12:12-24

PART THREE

## Introduction

2 Timothy 3:12 confirms that all “those who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”

“For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.” 1 Peter 3:12

## Three crucial points to remember when you are persecuted:

- I. God *Sees* the Persecution of the Righteous – vv1-4
- II. God *Hears* the Prayers of the Righteous – vv5-17
- III. God *Sets His Face* Against Evil – vv18-24

## v12

**God is sovereign and powerful to deliver us, but we must do our part. An angel opened the prison gate, man must open the gate to safety.**

## v13

*“Rhoda”*

**Slave and master united in prayer. The amazing union that only the gospel of Jesus Christ can bring about.**

**Notice too, the sacredness and significance of her role in the body of Christ.**

**We must pray and act on the things prayed for.**

## v14

## v15

*“You are out of your mind.”*

## v16

## v17

**Peter gives full credit to “*the Lord*” for his deliverance and rightly so. So should we.**

*“Tell these things to James”*

*“Then he departed and went to another place”*

### **III. God Sets His Face Against Evil – vv18-24**

“But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.” 1 Peter 3:12c

Psalm 34:16

#### **v18 - v19**

**God’s ways are mysterious and inscrutable.**

**Vengeance belongs to God alone.**

Deuteronomy 32:35

Psalm 94:1-2

Nahum 1:2

Romans 12:19

“For we know him who said, ‘Vengeance is mine; I will repay.’ And again, ‘The Lord will judge his people.’”  
Hebrews 10:30

**Though it is hard to understand and accept at times, God’s sovereignty is not something to resent and reject. It is something we must all humbly embrace and submit to.**

#### **v20 - v23**

**God will vindicate the righteous and judge the wicked.**

“The righteous is delivered from trouble, and the wicked walks into it instead.” Proverbs 11:8

Job 34:21-23

Proverbs 5:21-22

#### **v24**

All men perish, but thankfully the Word of God remains alive and active as more and more sinners are gathered into the full harvest of salvation.

Psalm 140:6-8

Revelation 3:19-22

2 Chronicles 33:10-13