

2 Timothy 3:10-15

You, However

Distinctive living ...

- I. Immersed in the World
 - A. Spiritual Predators

 - B. And Their Prey

- II. Serving in the Kingdom
 - A. Christ the King

 - B. His Under-shepherds

 - C. And All His People

- III. With Increasing Tension
 - A. Sharpened Distinctions

 - B. Inevitable Persecution

... in a divided world.

Children, Listen ...

1. How will living for Jesus make people different from those who do not?

2. What is persecution?

3. Why shouldn't Christians be surprised if they are persecuted?

4. What will help believers stay strong in the faith if persecution comes?

Graciously Distinguished

Every true Christian knows, or should know, that by nature they are no better than anyone else. It is by grace we have been saved through faith in Jesus Christ. But there is a clear distinction between the way we live and the way the worldly minded live. At the heart of it lies the issue of WHO we live for, who we love above all, and how we approach life. We have just come off a list describing the way unsavory characters think and act. But even "good people" who are unbelievers live their lives amiss, because they don't have Jesus as their King. Simply put, "Those who are in the flesh cannot please God." (Romans 8:8) But the saints of God live to serve the Lord, and therefore set out to live the Kingdom life in honor of our King. Because of that we live distinctively, humbly, but distinctively, from the world. The fact of the matter is true devotion to Christ and the genuine piety that flows from that inevitably causes friction between the regenerate and unregenerate. Jesus told us not to be surprised by this. Whether the friction is mild or intense we need to stand firm on the foundation of Christ and holding to His Word and His ways without compromise.