

**Matthew 5:10**  
Worthy to Suffer

*Blessed ...*

- I. The Righteous of God
  - A. New Status
  - B. Right Living
- II. Worthy to Suffer
  - A. Right Reasons
  - B. Wrong Reactions
- III. Witnesses in the World
  - A. Like the Prophets
  - B. Looking to Jesus

*... to face trouble.*

**Children, Listen ...**

1. What is persecution?
2. Will Christians always be rejected by unbelievers?
3. If we do face trouble because of our faith, what should we do?
4. How can it be a blessing to face trouble because we live for Jesus?

**Good and Offensive?**

It would be hard to argue that we live in a context of persecution. Compared to what our fellow believers face in most of the world, most Christians have a cake walk in the USA – and especially in W. MI. That is something for which we should be deeply thankful. That does not mean that we don't personally experience pushback for our faith and convictions by some folks. That certainly does not mean that we should be less vocal or less careful about the way we practice our faith. Mild or sharp, overt or subtle, if we are faithful to our calling, we are bound to face some form of friction from those who don't love the Lord and His ways. If not, our faith is probably not very salty and our light not very bright. One thing that is universally true is that, if we face persecution, it should be for the right reasons. While adversaries may find peripheral reasons to harass believers, we should never give legitimate reason beyond these two things: Living for Christ and living like Christ. We easily add fuel to the fire of criticism with things like hypocrisy, pride, judgmentalism and condescension and all other kinds of disobedience. There may be flames but let the fuel for their fire be only your faith. If you are privileged to suffer for that, you are blessed.