

The New Testament Church  
*The Gospel of the Kingdom #4 – Persecution*  
November 2, 2025 – International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church  
Pastor Paul Jehle

I Sharing the Gospel – **We confess that the Bible is the Word of God** (Sola Scriptura)

- A. Matthew 4:23 – Jesus “*preaching the gospel of the kingdom*”
  - 1. The **gospel** – “good news” – you can be rescued from your past
  - 2. Of the **Kingdom** – “rule” – you are saved to learning how to govern yourself
- B. Proclaim – “to herald” – share – James 3:17; exalt Christ and He will draw!
- C. Foundation stones to the Gospel of the Kingdom
  - 1. Creation/Sin – **We confess we are made in His image but marred by sin**
  - 2. Law/Grace – **We confess God’s Law is right and our need is for grace**
  - 3. Prayer – **Focus on God, do His will, be grateful, forgive, resist temptation**
- D. Sola Scriptura, Solus Christus, Sola Fide, Sola Gratia, Soli Deo Gloria

II Persecution – Psalm 119:84; Matthew 5:9-12; John 15:20

- A. **What is persecution?** (Hebrew and Greek – to pursue, chase, harass to do harm)
  - 1. Ps. 119:84 – our attitude often is - when will you judge those who persecute me?
  - 2. Mt. 5:10-11 - Blessed are those persecuted for righteousness sake (for doing right) (saying things against you *falsely for Christ’s sake* - the real against Him)
  - 3. John 15:20 – We follow Jesus, if they persecuted him, they will persecute us
    - a. 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4:12 – don’t think it strange when trials come...
    - b. 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4:13-14 – rejoice in fellowship with Christ’s suffering
  - 4. **But**, we are only blessed when we are pursued for harm for righteousness
    - a. 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4:15 – reproach for murder, theft, gossip we deserve what comes
    - b. 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4:16-17 – God judges His people (how we live) to be a witness
  - 5. Mt. 5:12 – we join all those persecuted before us – (Rev. 6:10) – how long?
  - 6. Can we prevent and possibly delay persecution? – Yes!
    - a. Mt. 5:9; Ro. 12:17-21 – blessed are peacemakers, do good, overcome evil!
    - b. 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 2:1-5 – a righteous civil government can protect peace and order!
- B. **Areas of Persecution** – the Bible speaks of various kinds of persecution
  - 1. Galatians 5:16-17 – the flesh (sin nature) persecutes the Spirit (spiritual nature)
  - 2. James 4:7 – the devil persecutes us (often through sin), submit to God, and resist
  - 3. Matthew 10:34 – our family members may persecute us – a “sword” at home
  - 4. 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:20 – we are to take persecution patiently without reacting at work
  - 5. Hebrews 11:36-38 – the world has persecuted believers for centuries
    - a. 1 in 7 believers worldwide; 1 in 5 in Africa; 2 in 5 in Asia
    - b. North Korea, Somalia, and Yemen the top three nations that persecute
  - 6. Hebrews 13:3 – pray like we are chained with them – fellowship of suffering
    - a. Gal. 5:16-17; James 4:7 - pray to resist the flesh and the devil
    - b. Mt. 10:34; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:20 – pray for those persecuted at home and work
    - c. Heb. 11:36-38; 13:3 – pray for believers persecuted as if chained with them