

Sermon Notes for July 22, 2018

HANDLING OPPOSITION TO YOUR FAITH

SERIES: *8 KEYS TO A BLESSED LIFE*

¹² Everyone who wants to live a godly life in union with Christ Jesus will be persecuted; ¹³ and evil persons and impostors will keep on going from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived themselves. **2 Timothy 3:12-13 (TEV)**

WHAT TO REMEMBER:

1. OPPOSITION CAN MAKE ME MORE _____

¹⁸ "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.

John 15:18-20 (NIV)

¹⁴ If you're abused because of Christ, count yourself fortunate. It's the Spirit of God and his glory in you that brought you to the notice of others. **1 Peter 4:14 (MSG)**

2. OPPOSITION WILL _____ MY _____

⁷ The purpose of these troubles is to test your faith as fire tests how genuine gold is. Your faith is more precious than gold, and by passing the test, it gives praise, glory, and honor to God. This will happen when Jesus Christ appears again. **1 Peter 1:7 (GW)**

3. OPPOSITON WILL GIVE ME _____

¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. **Matthew 5:10-12 (ESV)**

WHAT TO DO:

1. DON'T BE _____

¹² My dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful test you are suffering, as though something unusual were happening to you. **1 Peter 4:12 (TEV)**

2. DON'T BE _____

¹⁴ But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats. ¹⁵ Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it.

1 Peter 3:14-15 (NLT2)

3. DON'T BE _____

¹⁶ But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege of being called by his name! **1 Peter 4:16 (NLT2)**

⁹ Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are. **1 Peter 5:9 (NLT2)**

¹⁷ Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong! **1 Peter 3:17 (NLT2)**

4. RECOGNIZE THE _____ OF THE _____

¹² For we are not fighting against human beings but against the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world, the rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers of this dark age. **Ephesians 6:12 (TEV)**

²³ But keep away from foolish and ignorant arguments; you know that they end up in quarrels. ²⁴ As the Lord's servant, you must not quarrel. You must be kind toward all, a good and patient teacher, ²⁵ who is gentle as you correct your opponents, for it may be that God will give them the opportunity to repent and come to know the truth. ²⁶ And then they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the Devil, who had caught them and made them obey his will. **2 Timothy 2:23-26 (TEV)**

5. REFUSE TO _____

¹⁷ Don't pay people back with evil for the evil they do to you. Focus your thoughts on those things that are considered noble. ¹⁸ As much as it is possible, live in peace with everyone.

¹⁹ Don't take revenge, dear friends. Instead, let God's anger take care of it. After all, Scripture says, "I alone have the right to take revenge. I will pay back, says the Lord."

Romans 12:17-19 (GW)

¹⁹ Those who suffer because that is God's will for them must entrust themselves to a faithful creator and continue to do what is good. **1 Peter 4:19 (GW)**

6. RESPOND WITH A _____

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. **Romans 12:21 (ESV)**

²⁷ "But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. ²⁸ Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. **Luke 6:27-29 (NLT2)**