

Encountering Opposition

Acts 4:1 – 31

I. Introduction

II. Faithful Gospel Witnesses Will Encounter Hostility and Opposition

A. The inevitability of encountering hostility and opposition (v. 1 – 22)

Colossians 1:13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son...

John 15:18 – 20 "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours."

Acts 2:11 – 13 "...both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

2 Timothy 3:12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted...

B. What to do when encountering hostility and opposition (v. 23 – 31)

1. pray

2. remember God's sovereignty

Psalm 2:4 – 6 He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."

Acts 2:23 "...this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men."

Romans 8:28 – 30 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

3. speak boldly

Romans 10:14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

III. Conclusion

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