

## WORD OF THE WEEK

### The Subject: Persecution

II Timothy 3:12 - *Yea and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

Philippians 1:29 - *For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ not only to believe on him but also to suffer for his sake.*

given - Greek: Charizomai - "to grant as a favor"

I Peter 4:12-13 - *<sup>12</sup>Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:*

*<sup>13</sup>But rejoice in as much as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings.*

strange - Greek: xenos - occasional guest; visitor

Peter says that the fiery trial of the believers faith is not merely an occasional visitor, but a required daily experience. Persecution is a constant companion to the godly Christian. Jesus said that we are to take up our cross daily. Paul is saying that if a man is not suffering persecution for Christ and the gospels sake, then he is living an ungodly life. This doctrine is uncomfortable to many who are unwilling to suffer persecution for the witness of Christ. With the gift of salvation comes the gift of persecution. Paul says again, "We must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God (Acts 14:22)". Every believer is required to endure persecution in suffering for Christ that we may be perfected in the faith. As a literal fire purifies, destroying infection and disease, so the fiery trial burns out the impurities of sin in our lives.

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