



**Sunday, August 16, 2009: Understanding Persecution**

**Scripture: John 16:1-4**

**Speaker: Michael Boot**

**Sermon Notes:**

1. Hebrews 12. Jesus endured the cross for the joy set before Him.
2. The most mature Christians have often suffered greatly and yet experience great joy.
3. Matthew 10:16-25. Be wise as serpents, innocent as doves.
4. Jesus' desire is that the disciples will not fall away from the faith, becoming detached from the reality of Christ.
5. John 16:3. 'All these things they do because they have not known the father or Me.'
6. The Comforter helps us and guides us in our persecution.
7. The bodily absence of Christ calls for a new dependence on the Holy Spirit.
8. Rejoice in your sufferings. Romans 5:1-5; 1 Peter 1:1-9.
9. Persecution cements the truth together with the power of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church.
10. Galatians 1:13-15. Paul was zealous for the traditions but persecuted the church.
11. Some who persecute the Church think they are doing God a service.
12. We are promised divine power to carry out our mission.
13. Acts 1:8. The word 'witness' means "martyr".

**Application Questions:**

1. As Christ's servants what can we expect? See John 15:20.
2. According to Matthew 10:16-25, what is the attitude we ought to have in persecution, and what source of strength should we rely on?
3. How can we rejoice in suffering as we face trouble for being a Christian at work, or threats and opposition from unbelievers?
4. What does Revelation 2:8-11 teach about persecution?
5. In Revelation 2 and 3, we read about the Church facing persecution. What are the rewards for those who overcome?