

**“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”**

(Matthew 5:10)

Introduction – what would you say to a persecuted Christian?

(1) Christians should expect persecution

“Remember the words I spoke to you: ‘No servant is greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.” (John 15:20)

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. (2 Timothy 3:12)

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. (1 Peter 4:12)

“Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.” (Luke 6:22)

“¹⁷Be on your guard against men; they will hand you over to the local councils and flog you in the synagogues...²¹Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death.” (Matthew 10:17-21)

If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. (1 Peter 4:15)

(2) Christians should rejoice in persecution

- **“... for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (v10)**

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.” (Matthew 13:44)

- **“... because great is your reward in heaven” (v12)**

- **“... for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you” (v12)**

Conclusion – facing the cost

See www.opendoorsuk.org for more information on persecuted Christians worldwide.