

March 7, 1993, First Day Morning Naphtali

See Your Good Works

In 1 Pet 2:9 it speaks of us as a people who have been chosen for this very moment in history, a royal priesthood that prays like the priests of old prayed — holding up hands as priests, declaring the excellencies of our King because once we weren't a people, we were scattered and didn't know each other, but now we *are* a people. That is a direct prophecy from the old testament — *I'll make a people out of those who are not a people.*

But in verse 11, Peter urges us as aliens and strangers to the world not to be participants in the world's system and the desires that wage war against the soul, and live good lives among the pagans (verse 12) that though they accuse us of doing wrong, that they may see our good deeds.... This *seeing* of our good deeds is not seeing one time, but a continual seeing through the years and eventually they see that we serve the true God and then they'll be able to glorify God in the day He visits us. Of course our Master taught that to us in the preamble to the constitution which we live by and the things brought into the new covenant from the old.

In Mt 5:16 it talks about good deeds that are *seen* to be good. This as an actual principle, set up by our Father, and it works — so that men who see our good deeds will be able to praise our Father. Sometimes it is just simply talking to somebody — really greeting them (Mt 5:47) — to outsiders, not just one another. Even if we just say hello and smile, a little spark of hope in them ignites. They go away feeling so good because someone was kind to them. They are closer to their instinctive knowledge of God because of this. The more they see our good deeds it wins them over, and we start by just speaking to them in a kind way. People's kindness effects us in the same way too — when someone is kind to us we go away and attribute it to the Creator and thank Him. However this doesn't happen with people who are already turned over to the evil one. So this watching in 1 Pet 2:12 is not just a snap judgment, but a watching over a period of time. And some of those people will later help us in a time of need because they have observed us and it won them over. The principle is Gen 12:3 — the people in the world who bless Abraham's seed will be blessed and those who do not will be cursed. There are people in the world and they are to be blessed or cursed, and anyone who hates Abraham's seed (a Jew or Abraham's seed in Messiah — the seed is Messiah and we are in the seed) will be cursed, and those who do us good will be blessed eternally, even if they gave you a drink of water (Mt 10:30). Mt 25:34 speaks of those who help at the cost of their own life. They are going to be rewarded publicly as *kings* in the nations.

We are here for that purpose (Mt 5:13-14) as salt and light to the earth — the preservative power — and whatever can be healed will be healed. The servant in the police station in Londrina, she may stay there and be a servant or maybe our Father will bring her to us. If they are chosen, our lives will show others where they are wrong. But be wise in how you speak to people. Some people ask questions because they want to find something to persecute us about. You have to understand who the servants are. Therefore, submit yourself, for Yahshua's sake, to authority. They try to get you to betray your brother. Be very careful and get covering if you can. 1 Pet 2:13,14 — That is what governments are for: to punish those who do wrong and commend those who do right.

Verse 15 — by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of fools who spread gossip. Those people who observed us over a period of time will not listen to the fools and they will not prejudice based on information they heard on the news about us. The ones who are fools are given over into Satan's court. We are not going to silence their talk, but we will silence the influence they have on others (who see our good behavior). Maybe next time people will not

listen to them. Verses 16,17 — "show love and respect to *everyone...*" Honor the king, but obey God rather than men when they try to get you to sin (Acts 4:19). And finally, *1 Pet 3:8-10*. Don't insult people, be wise. You don't have to answer, but be submissive, be careful. Our lips must be free from evil speech and turn away from evil and do good, for... (verses 11-12). Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? (verses 13-15) Do not fear their threats, do not be frightened, but in your heart set apart your Messiah as Sovereign, put all your trust in Him and always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope you have (obviously they see the hope). However, do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience so that those who do speak maliciously against your good behavior in Messiah will be ashamed of their slander, for it is better to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. Phil 1 also speaks about persecution. If you are persecuted (Paul said everyone who lives a *godly* life in Messiah *will* be persecuted, 2 Tim 3:12; it's a principle) it may be (Mt 5:12,13) for righteousness sake, but some people are persecuted because they bring it on themselves by their unwise behavior. (The Jehovah's Witnesses do this — are persecuted because they hound people, knocking on people's doors, trying to get into their life. They are schooled to deceive people — they change the word around.)

We have to be persecuted for righteousness sake (Mt 5:10-12; 1 Jn 3:10; 2 Tim 3:12). But if you live an unwise life and say unwise things, we are liable to be persecuted, but no rejoicing comes from that. Mt 5:13 says to leap for joy if you are persecuted for righteousness sake — great is your reward in heaven *if* we live such godly lives that we are persecuted for it (Heb 11:37; 1 Ths 3:4). Blessed are those who are persecuted (Mt 12:10-12) in the same way they persecuted the prophets. In Jn 15:20 it says, "*If* they persecuted me they're *going* to persecute you." 1 Cor 15:9 — Paul said he *himself* persecuted the church.

Mk 10:29 — If you do this, you will be persecuted. If you have eternal life because you have faith and in faith you give up your life and everything that has a hold on your life, you will be persecuted for it. For as disciples, we are called to count everything that had a hold on our lives as dung, and over the joy of the treasure of salvation, to sell everything to get that field. What has a hold on your life? Our Master mentions that possessions do, and we see in Acts 3:33,34 what they did with their possessions — they gave it to the apostles, and the apostles distributed them because they were godly righteous men with no deceit in them. That's how the church has to be — what it has to be restored to — so you see that's how you get rid of your possessions. whatever has a hold on your life that belonged to you, you are going to give up and lay at the apostles' feet. You don't do this after all your money becomes worthless. A person who does this cannot be trusted because they hung onto their life and now that it's gone, now they want to give it up.

So back in Mk 10 you see that if you give up your possessions for the sake of the kingdom of God you will be persecuted for it, because people in the world will think you are not doing right. By doing this, verse 30, you will get persecuted for it and, in the age to come, eternal life. This is what he is trying to teach us. Our Master told His disciples these things and they became apostles and with many other words they told people what they had to do. How many people were cut to the heart? *More* than 3,000. There were 5,000 — 10,000 were listening, but after they heard the many other words that they had to give up all their possessions, it was only 3,000 who were saved. The many other words separated thousands from thousands. There were over a million people in Jerusalem that day from all over the world. And many had heard and had been baptized by John the Baptist in preparation of receiving Messiah.

The word teaches us; every time you read it there is another revelation; it is supernatural. Our Father uses possessions to test a person's faith to see how much faith he has. (In Christianity there is no testing of your faith.) These things test whether you have faith or not in the Son of God. Not everyone can get in, but those who are chosen, selected, a holy nation, a royal priesthood, a special, holy people who specially belong to Him so that a distinction can be made between those who serve God and those who don't, a peculiar people, set apart, different than all the other people on the earth, belonging *only* to God. *Let no man do me wrong* — people are blessed or cursed as they treat us — their eternity is sealed as they bless us because we lead godly lives. And this is what you were called for. Abraham was called to test the nations (Gen 12:3). The holiness, blessedness, set-apart-ness of a special people that judges the whole world. And in 1 Cor 6:3, we will judge the whole world because we have learned how to judge the world. In the next 50 years we will judge, with compassion, from the heart, in the Spirit. Some judges judge in the Spirit, some by the letter. We are learning to judge in compassion — be a compassionate judge. You see in 1 Cor 6:3 what you have been chosen for. You see how attentive you have to be. There are no crash courses for the kingdom.

So we see the nature of persecution: It is from the evil one and it comes through those whose lives he has a hold of. We've been persecuted before and it wasn't righteous persecution so there was no rejoicing. The more righteous we are, the more we will be able to rejoice. Why did the apostles (Acts 5:41) rejoice after receiving 39 lashes? Because they were righteous. We are not there yet, but we are headed that way. They rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer. Sometimes we are not *worthy* — we will get to the judgment and say, "Where's my reward?" but He will say, "You weren't worthy of the persecution." The apostles were worthy to suffer abuse for the sake of our Master.

Sometimes we still function on our human nature we had in the world, but we're *being* saved — our soul is being saved. But that woman in the police station who helped us, she has something in her that lets her jump over into the next age (in the nations). But Yahshua came to save the sinner, not by works of righteousness, but because we were sinners and we need to be saved — and now we are being taught by God.

ha-emeq: I was wondering why this thing of persecution just started with our Master, when they came against Him, because I couldn't see in the old covenant that they were persecuted. It seemed that they were only persecuted when they were disobedient — to discipline them. But now I saw that through that promise in Genesis, he wanted to use these people that through them He could bless or curse people. *But* these people had to be *worthy*, they had to be special, they had to be a light that caused a reaction in people, making them either want to help or do harm to these people. But these people failed to be a precious jewel in the midst of those people, so that the people could be judged according to how they reacted. It worked a little bit, but then something strange started happening: *within* that people, persecution started happening, from within! against the few prophets who would stand up and speak against the bad works of the people.

But then Yahshua came from His own people and they persecuted Him. And even now, it's the religious people who get stirred up. They say, "*we* know *God*, we know Jesus," and they come against us.

So if we have good works, the actions our Father established in the beginning is going to happen. Then the persecution is going to happen from *outside*, not from within. It's from that promise so long ago.

This is why you are called, separated. 1 Pet 2:9. Mt 21:43 verifies what she said. He has given the kingdom to a people who will make them jealous, who will produce the fruit of the kingdom (Eph 2:12; 1 Pet 2:9; Rom 9:23-24). And it goes back to Hosea — we are those people because we know we are the fulfillment of that. A whole nation was disqualified because they didn't receive the word.

[Most of the Jews on the earth today are in New York, in the territory of our tribe of Judah. And they are going to become jealous, because they were persecuted people all over the world. God provided a place of safety for them to come to in the United States.]