

### **Hope Chapel Sunday Series - Continues**

**Message Summary:** The fear that is becoming a reality today is “Our Fear of Persecution”. We have had unprecedented freedom. Persecution has been going on during this whole pandemic. Followers of Jesus are being refused aid. Governments are putting surveillance of churches around the world. More than 340 million Christians global face persecution. That’s roughly 1 in 8 are face persecution and discrimination according to the 2021 World Watch List. This same organization said that there is a 60% increase over the previous year of Christians who have been killed for their faith. So how can we face what is going on if we are paralyzed with fear of Persecution. That is what today is all about. We need to be prepared to this.

## **Courage to Face Our Fears – Part 3**

# **Our Fear of Persecution**

### **1. Expect Persecution John 15:20**

- A. Think through your responses before persecution happens.
- B. Think through the potential consequences before they happen.

### **2. Remember there are rewards for persecution. Matthew 5:10-12**

### **3. Trust God’s justice in persecution 1 Peter 4:4-5**

### **4. Develop eternal eyes for times of persecution Hebrews 10:33-34**

- A. Have an eternal perspective anchored in our relationship with Jesus
- B. Value where you’re going more than where you’re currently at
- C. Value eternal things more than temporary things
- D. Our loyalties are firmly fixed with Jesus and His Kingdom

### **5. Ask God to help you to love Him so much that no price will be too high to pay for Him. Matthew 19:29**

## LIFEGROUP

### **Begin It (5min) – Open Prayer & Praise**

**Open it (10min) –** Share if you have ever experienced persecution for being a follower of Jesus. Share if you have any concerns about being persecuted for your faith in the future?

### **Explore It (60min) - Discussion Questions:**

1. Why should we live expecting persecution? How do we live with the expectation of persecution?
2. Why did Jesus say we are blessed if we are persecuted as His followers? How can persecution be a blessing?
3. How does understanding the justice of God help us endure persecution?
4. Discuss the importance of having an eternal perspective when we face persecution.
5. Discuss what Jesus said in Matthew 10:28 - *“Don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”* (NLT)

**Apply It (15min):** What has God revealed to you from this message or through your group discussion that will bring more courage to face persecution?