

Transforming the City One Life at a Time.

SKÁNDALON

Sermon Series

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Know God, Grow Together, Discover Purpose, Make a Difference

CONNECT

- How do you feel and react when others cut in on you while driving, shopping, speaking, waiting in line, etc.?

WORD

Galatians 5:10-11

"I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion, whoever that may be, will have to pay the penalty.¹¹ Brothers and sisters, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished."

THOUGHT

Even before Paul gets into the details of the Spirit-led life in his epistle to the Galatians (5:16–6:10), there are clues that Paul had no doubt the Holy Spirit would preserve those in his audience who, though they were straying from the gospel, had truly believed in Jesus. His assertion that at least some of the Galatians received the Spirit by faith (3:2–6) points us in this direction, but 5:10 also demonstrates Paul's confidence. The apostle's readers may have been toying with the idea of adding the works of the Law to their faith. (His refusal to impose the Mosaic law upon non-Jews was one of the things that made the news of the crucified and risen Messiah a stumbling block to the Jewish authorities and incited them to take action against him.)Paul was assured in the Lord that this would not continue forever. As Paul tells us elsewhere, God always completes the good work that He begins in His people ([Phil. 1:6](#)), and He will do whatever it takes to ensure that we work out our salvation in fear and trembling (2:12–13).

Quote: Coram Deo

Martin Luther says, "when the cross is abolished, and the rage of tyrants and heretics ceases on the one side, and all things are in peace, this is a sure token that the pure doctrine of God's Word is taken away." The world's hatred is sometimes a sign that we are being faithful to Scripture, provided the world detests us due to the message we preach, not because we are obnoxious. If we meet no worldly opposition, it may mean we are not being true to the offense of the cross.

DISCUSSION

1. Can you identify with Paul's persecution? Have you ever been persecuted because of your faith? How did you react to it?

2. In Matthew 24:9, Jesus shares that they hated Him and persecuted Him, so they will do the same to us. Do you think facing persecution is a necessary part of the Christian walk?

3. In Daniel 3, King Nebuchadnezzar throws Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the furnace for refusing to bow down in reverence for him. In the face of persecution, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego chose to honor God. Imagine you were in their situation, would you be able to have the same story?

4. Has your life been a stumbling block or building block for those around you that do not know Christ? How so?

5. If you are not a building block for those around you, in what ways could you be? How could you help those around know God?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- This week, every time you feel you are in the face of persecution or opposition, take action steps to produce love and kindness instead of hate.
- Encourage a friend this week that, they are not in this alone and you are standing with them in the face of persecution.

PRAYER

- Pray over the churches and Christians who are facing persecution. Pray for strength for them to keep on in the faith.
- Pray with a friend over any persecution you may face or that they may face serving God.