**11/22/20**

**Be Attitudes to a Blessed Life: Be Distinctive**
**Cal Rychener**

**Matthew 5:10-12 (NIV):** "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

**Popular Gospel Myths**

**Myth #1: "Follow Christ and you'll be happier!"**

**Myth #2: "Follow Christ and you'll have less problems!"**

**John 16:33 (NIV):** "…In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

**Myth #3: "Follow Christ and bad things won't happen to you."**

**Mark 4:17 (NIV):** "…When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away."

**1 Peter 4:4 (NIV):** …they heap abuse on you.

**Why should believers expect opposition?**

- Reason #1: Because of Christianity's claim to absolute truth.
- Reason #2: Because of Christianity's claim to an exclusive salvation.
- Reason #3: Because people love their deeds of darkness and hate being exposed by the truth.

**John 3:19-20 (NIV):** "This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed."

**Maintaining joy in the midst of rejection! 4 P's.**

- Preparation!
    - **2 Timothy 3:12 (NIV):** …everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.
- Perspective!
    - **Matthew 5:12:** "…great is your reward in heaven…"
- Passion!
- Partners!