Wisdom Quiz

Matthew 5:10

"Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

How well do you understand what it means to be persecuted for righteousness?

True/False

1. Every Christian should expect to be persecuted for righteousness’ sake.  
   (Read II Timothy 3:12.)
   • Being persecuted for righteousness is a clear confirmation that we have effectively engaged God’s enemy. Christians are to be witnesses; thus the more vital and precise the message they give the more reaction they will receive from those who are entrenched in error.

   How do we know that simply believing in Christ will be accompanied by suffering? (See Philippians 1:29.)

2. There is an equal reward in heaven for any suffering for righteousness’ sake we go through on earth.  
   (Read Romans 8:18.)
   • There are at least three dimensions of comparison between present suffering and future rewards: the value of the reward, the amount of the reward, and the length of time in which the reward can be enjoyed. Since the suffering takes place in a temporal setting, there is no way to make a comparison with eternity and indestructible things. Knowing this comparison produces great rejoicing in those who suffer.

Who had second thoughts about the benefits in earth when he saw the realities of eternity? (See Luke 16:19-31.)

3. Just as Christ was separated from God on the cross, we experience similar separation when we suffer for righteousness’ sake.  
   (Read Romans 8:35-39.)
   • The separation which Christ experienced on the cross was in connection with a once-for-all payment for sin. The persecution we experience is related to the power of the risen Christ working in and through us. “That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings...” (Philippians 3:10).

   What was Paul willing to trade in order to win more of Christ by being persecuted for righteousness’ sake? (See Philippians 3:8.)

4. Whenever Christians suffer at the hands of non-Christians, they are being persecuted for righteousness’ sake.  
   (Read I Peter 2:20.)
   • Many Christians suffer needlessly because of wrong words, actions, attitudes, or motives.

   What inward attitude will indicate to us that we are being persecuted for Christ’s sake rather than for our own sake? (See I Peter 4:14.)

Total Correct

Am I a Soldier of the Cross?

Isaac Watts

1. Am I a soldier of the cross? A little low’r of the Lamb?
2. Must I be carried to the skies On flow’ry beds of ease?
3. Are there no foes for me to face? Must I not stem the flood?
4. Sure I must fight, if I would reign: Increase my courage, Lord;

And shall I fear to own His cause, Or blush to speak His name? When others sought to win the prize, Andailed thro’ bloody seas?
Is this vile world a friend to grace? To help me on to God? I’ll bear the toil, endure the pain, Support’ed by Thy word.

Wisdom Worksheet (Booklet 10—Preliminary Edition)
How does a roaring lion illustrate persecution of a righteous person?

Scripture warns Christians to be serious and alert because their adversary Satan goes about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (I Peter 5:8).

Satan and those whom he uses are under God’s restraining control. They have been defeated by Christ’s victory in the resurrection. However, Satan still possesses deadly power to deceive Christians and disrupt God’s work.

His strategy in roaring is to intimidate and unnerved Christians through pressures and persecution so that they fail to claim God’s promises and power, and thus fall into sin.

“... FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.”

Persecution you endure for doing right proves five things:

- You have been chosen by God. “... I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you” (John 15:19).
- Christ’s character is being recognized in you. “... We are ... persecuted ... Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body” (II Corinthians 4:8-10).
- You are a threat to Satan’s kingdom. “But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name” (Acts 4:17).
- You are not conforming to the world system. “... The world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world” (John 17:14).
- You have brought conviction by exposing sin in those who persecute you. “When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart ...” (Acts 7:54).

How does the persecution of Christians change the course of history?

As a zealous Pharisee, Paul persecuted Christians in the early churches, forcing thousands to flee. Wherever these believers went they spread the Gospel, and the churches multiplied greatly when Paul himself accepted Christ. He willingly accepted the cruel persecutions aimed against him as he evangelized the Gentile world.

As the early church continued to face persecution, their dedication and zeal inspired thousands to accept salvation through Jesus Christ.

When Christianity became popular, persecution stopped, and many uncommitted people joined churches. Soon compromise, apostasy, and corruption abounded.

The Reformation movement, begun by courageous men like John Wycliffe, John Hus, William Tyndale, Martin Luther, John Calvin, and John Wesley, brought fierce new persecutions. This renewal of persecution purified the church of fair-weather Christians and drove true believers back to Scriptural principles.
How does the stalking of prey reveal the tactics of Satan?

When a hungry animal picks up the scent of its prey, it pursues the victim relentlessly. The predator does not let its presence be known and rarely attacks head on. Instead, it uses concealment and stealth to approach its victim.

While stalking, it looks for signs of weakness among the members of a herd or singles out stragglers. When all is ready, the predator attacks swiftly, disabling its victim before it can resist or flee.

Do Resource D.

How do the laws of motion allow us to understand the forces of persecution?

For every action there is an opposite and equal reaction. When a spiritual movement exerts a force on the world, the world will attempt to exert an equal and opposite force against it.

Discover further analogies as you learn about friction and movement.

Do Resource E.

How does persecution against our Biblical law system occur in America?

The principles of Scripture which John Calvin used to establish the government in Geneva provided a foundation for the common law in England and the Constitutional law in America.

Sir William Blackstone clarified Biblical principles of law in his Commentaries on the Laws of England. These formed the basis of legal education in England and America up until our century.

A determined attack against Biblically-based law in America began in the nineteenth century when the influence of Darwin's theories of evolution brought about an evolving law code based on precedent rather than principle.

Supreme Court Justice Holmes believed there were no absolutes by which law could be interpreted.

In the "Warren Court" the Constitution became an "elastic document."

Do Resource F.

How does pain illustrate the benefits of persecution?

Without pain the body cannot sense danger to itself.

The health of the body depends upon its ability to identify dangers both inside and outside of itself. Pain enables the body to locate and respond to destructive agents.

When a leper loses his sense of pain, he may also lose his fingers, toes, and other members of his body because he is not aware of infections and injuries to them.

Pain in one part of the body is felt in other members of the body.

Because of the intricacies of the nervous system network, pain in any area of the body quickly affects the rest of the body.

Pain initiates the process of healing in the body.

Pain activates the healing process in our bodies. White corpuscles rush to the infected area. They identify the foreign agents, surround them, and eliminate them from the body.

THE ULTIMATE EXAMPLE OF HEALING THROUGH PAIN IS SEEN IN THE REDEMPTIVE WORK OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS.

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How many of these questions can you answer before studying the resources?

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LEARN WORDS THAT WILL CLARIFY PERSECUTION AND GIVE DIRECTION IN RESPONDING TO IT.

The first important fact to understand about persecution is that it is a normal part of the Christian life. Jesus made that quite clear when He prayed, “I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world…” (John 17:14).

Paul further confirms this point: “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (II Timothy 3:12).

STEP 1
DISCOVER THE BLESSINGS PROMISED TO THOSE WHO ENDURE PERSECUTION.

PERSECUTION ENDURED  BLESSINGS RECEIVED

1 THE AFFLICTED

Affliction is a general term for prolonged suffering—mental, physical, or spiritual. The Greek verb ἀλίπτω (THLIH-boe), translated “to afflict” in some New Testament passages, is rendered in other places “to throng,” “to trouble,” or “to suffer persecution.” The Greek noun denoting affliction, ἀλίγνις (THLIH-psis), is also translated “persecution,” “anguish,” or “tribulation.” In fact, this was the word Jesus chose when He prepared His disciples for the future, saying, “… In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).


Jesus’ prayer in John 17 instructs Christians that persecution is a normal part of the Christian life.

The following words define the scope of persecution which a Christian will experience if he is living a Godly life.

SYNONYMS of “Persecute”

- Afflict
- Oppress
- Harass
- Betray
- Pursue
- Torture
- Imprison
- Martyr

As an aid to learning these words, arrange them in a list according to the degree of their intensity.

• We will gain a deeper understanding of God and His Word.
  “It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes” (Psalm 119:71).

• We will develop stronger character.
  “… we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience” (Romans 5:3).
  “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing” (James 1:2-4).

• We will attain a clearer perspective.
  “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look … at the things which are not seen: for … the things which are not seen are eternal” (II Corinthians 4:17-18).

• We will broaden our usefulness.
  “Blessed be God … Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble…” (II Corinthians 1:3-4).
2 THE OPPRESSED

Oppression, a prideful abuse of power, is illustrated in Pharaoh’s attempt to enslave and crush the children of Israel. (See Exodus 2:23; 3:7,9.)

Centuries later, the king of Syria oppressed the children of Israel.

God rebuked and condemned wicked Ahab for oppressing Naboth and seizing his vineyard.

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3 THE HARASSED

Before Paul was saved, he harassed Christians; after he accepted Christ as Lord, unbelieving Jews followed him from city to city stirring up trouble against him and his co-workers. (See Acts 13:50; 14:2, 19; 17:5, 13.)

Paul harassed Christians and dragged them to jail. After his conversion Paul was harassed by Christ’s enemies.

Bible Art Series, Standard Publishing

4 THE BETRAYED

Daniel’s fellow rulers betrayed him. Unable to find in Daniel faults which would discredit him with the king, jealous Babylonian leaders plotted to add a law which would make worship of the true God a crime. Then they accused their peer, insisting that the king throw Daniel to the lions. (See Daniel 6:4-16.)

• We will be defended by God.

When God’s people cried out from beneath their burdens, God delivered them using Moses as His instrument.

God repeatedly delivered the king of Israel from the king of Syria through the prophet Elisha. (See II Kings 6:8-10.)

No one can oppress God’s people without impunity. His forces are always present, a fact which He revealed to Elisha’s servant. (See II Kings 6:13-17.) Notice that although God’s armies can at any time deliver us, usually He chooses to deliver us as we seek Him in prayer. (See II Kings 6:18-23 and Hebrews 4:14-16.)

As God delivered Israel, He will deliver us. He is still the defender of the oppressed. (See Proverbs 22:23 and Hebrews 13:8.)

• We will lament with Christ in His sufferings.

• Christ shares our sufferings.

When the Lord spoke to Saul on the road to Damascus, He said, “...Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?” (Acts 9:4).

• We share Christ’s sufferings.

“We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed...always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body” (II Corinthians 4:8-10).

• We will reflect God’s glory.

When God delivered Daniel from the ravenous lions, the Babylonian king saw God’s glory and declared, “I make a decree, That...men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end. He deliveth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth...” (Daniel 6:26-27).
5 THE PURSUED

Pursuit involves hatred and vengeance toward a personal enemy. Saul hounded Christians, thinking he was doing God a favor. King Saul pursued David with jealous hatred. (See I Samuel 24:14.)

David did not permit his men to attack King Saul.

6 THE TORTURED

Torture is a sadistic and cruel infliction of mental, emotional, or physical pain. "... Against me do they devise my hurt" (Psalm 41:7).

7 THE IMPRISONED

Imprisonment is a form of persecution familiar to Christians since the days of the early church. The Apostle Paul endured house arrest and spent much time in prison cells. Paul never let physical limitations deter him from serving Christ. In fact, he saw imprisonment as part of God's plan for the "furtherance of the Gospel." (See Philippians 1:12.)

Paul and Silas imprisoned for Christ.

8 THE MARTYRED

At certain times in history, Christians have faced death for their convictions.

"... Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection. ... They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword..." (Hebrews 11:35-37).

Stephen was one that God called upon to die for Him.

- We will allow God to judge.

David asked King Saul, "After whom... dost thou pursue?... The Lord therefore be judge, and judge between me and thee, and see, and plead my cause, and deliver me out of thine hand" (I Samuel 24:14-15). Vengeance belongs to God. (See Romans 12:19.)

- We will be able to praise God for deliverance.

Torture forces us to cry out to God. "When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me. In God will I praise his word..." (Psalm 56:9-10).

- We will experience deep, abiding joy.

Because Paul willingly accepted persecution and viewed it from God's perspective, God enabled him to "... rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory" (I Peter 1:8).

When summoned to Philippi, "at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God..." (Acts 16:25). Their joy increased still more when they led the jailer to the Lord. (See Acts 16:23-40.)

- We will triumph through resurrection.

The detailed account of Stephen's death shows that God gives special dying grace to those called upon to endure martyrdom. As Stephen faced his accusers, his face shone as "the face of an angel." (See Acts 6:15.) He was filled with the Holy Spirit, and the Lord Jesus revealed Himself to Stephen in an unusual way. (See Acts 7:55-60.)

God promises that all sufferings for Him will be abundantly rewarded in eternity. "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer. ... be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Revelation 2:10). (See Revelation 20:4; 21:1-4.)
STEP 2
DISCERN THE TYPE OF PERSECUTION YOU ARE EXPERIENCING.

Peter and John being questioned before the rulers in Jerusalem

LEARN WHY YOU MUST SUFFER FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE.

• We live among the unrighteous in a fallen world.

When the term "world" is used in the New Testament, it does not usually refer to the earth itself or to all the inhabitants of the earth. Frequently, the Greek word κόσμος (KOZZ-moss) speaks of the present world system—the sphere of Satan's control, including all unsaved men and women under his immediate domination and those hostile to God and His righteousness. It also refers to all earthly goods, pleasures, and opportunities which would draw one away from God.

Scripture teaches clearly that Satan rules in the hearts and minds of men who have not received the Gospel. He is called "the god of this world" (see II Corinthians 4:4) and "the prince of the power of the air" (see Ephesians 2:2). With him work other powerful fallen angels called "principalities," "powers," "rulers of the darkness of this world," and "spiritual wickedness in high places." (See Ephesians 6:12.)

When we accept Christ as Lord, God removes us from Satan's dominion. The devil no longer has any power over us, for Christ has defeated him.

God wants us to realize that we are aliens. Our real kingdom is in heaven. Peter wrote, "... I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul" (I Peter 2:11).

• We are to continue the work of Christ.

The world rejected Christ. The Lord Jesus came into the world with the message of salvation for sinners. They resisted His words and finally showed their hatred and rejection by crucifying Him.

Christ leaves believers in this world to carry on His work. We are to be His witnesses (see Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8) and His ambassadors (see II Corinthians 5:20), sharing the way of salvation with our fellowmen still bound by Satan.

• We are a continual rebuke to those who refuse to live by God's standards.

God has written His laws upon the heart and conscience of every person. (See Romans 2:14-15.) However, sin can deaden an individual's conscience.

When a Christian lives by God's standards, his life and testimony stir the deadened consciences of those around him, bringing conviction of sin. This conviction often results in persecution for the Godly Christian.
LEARN TO RECOGNIZE WHEN YOU SUFFER FOR YOUR OWN SAKE.

“For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffetted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God” (I Peter 2:20).

PERSECUTION EVALUATION

Attitudes

☐ Are you suffering because of wrong attitudes?

Pride causes contention; disrespect results in reaction from those in authority. These and a multitude of other wrong attitudes are irritants which often produce persecution.

Words

☐ Are you suffering because of unwise words?

Life and death are in the power of the tongue. Wrong words create deep wounds and build impenetrable barriers. Words spoken in jest or without careful thought can have devastating repercussions. Inappropriate words have destroyed close relationships. Harsh words have started wars.

When persecution comes, we must analyze what we said, how we said it, and what the other person understood us to say.

Deeds

☐ Are you suffering because of wrong deeds?

Men evaluate even a child on the basis of his deeds and respond to him accordingly. Insensitive or selfish behavior causes others to reject us and to seek retaliation.

Motives

☐ Are you suffering because of selfish motives?

When we do something for others, they will instinctively try to discern our true motivations. Words and actions should be stimulated by sincere love for God and our neighbors. If others sense that we are serving our own interests, they will quickly react to us.

PROJECT

Recall your most recent experience with persecution. Write out the details of the situation clearly enough so that another person could help you evaluate it.

STEP 3

UNDERSTAND HOW THE BODY RESPONDS TO PERSECUTION.

The nervous system of the body

No man can live or die to himself—certainly not a Christian. For we become members of the Body of Christ (see 1 Corinthians 12:17 and Ephesians 5:30) and “members one of another.” (See Ephesians 4:16.)

This intimate and vital relationship is significant, pointing out that just as pain in one part of the physical body affects the entire body, so persecution faced by one believer will affect other believers. “And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it . . .” (1 Corinthians 12:26).

The persecuted believer has a grave responsibility. His response to persecution will have a “ripple” effect. If he chafes, succumbs to bitterness, or seeks revenge, other believers may become infected with his sin. However if he submits, thanking God for the opportunity to learn more of Christ and His supernatural power in delivering from sin, others will be encouraged.
Further, brethren seeing another believer persecuted have a responsibility. We must quickly respond in Godly love to the suffering “member.” This loving care of the Body for itself will cause believers to grow in likeness to Christ and in unity with one another. (See John 17:20-23.)

**STEP 4**
IDENTIFY WAYS TO MINISTER TO CHRIST BY REACHING OUT TO CHRISTIANS WHO ARE UNDERGOING PERSECUTION.

Christ’s teaching about this responsibility is very important. "Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord . . . when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me” (Matthew 25:37-40). In order to comprehend how to more effectively minister to the Lord through helping Christians who are persecuted, learn the following antonyms of persecute.

**ANTONYMS OF “Persecute”**

- Console
- Shelter
- Defend
- Nourish
- Solace
- Hearten
- Protect
- Strengthen

**TURN THESE WORDS INTO ACTIONS**

1. **How would you console an afflicted Christian?**
   - Point out possible distortions in statements.
   - Remind him of God’s promises.
   - Write a letter affirming him.

2. **How would you defend an oppressed Christian?**
   - Give a good report of him.
   - Expose any untrue statements.
   - Write a letter on his behalf.

3. **How would you solace a harassed Christian?**
   - Tell how suffering made heroes of the faith.
   - Help him to overcome with good works.
   - Encourage maintenance of his physical health.

4. **How would you protect a betrayed Christian?**
   - Encourage the daily reading of Psalms.
   - Teach him to look to God to plead his case.
   - Be a spokesman whenever possible.

5. **How would you shelter a pursued Christian?**
   - Teach him to cry out to God.
   - Appeal to the pursuer and his authority.
   - Teach him how and when to flee.

6. **How would you nourish a tortured Christian?**
   - Teach him how to praise God.
   - Give him rich songs to sing.
   - Provide fellowship and sustenance.

7. **How would you hearten an imprisoned Christian?**
   - Emphasize the forgiveness of God.
   - Remind him of victory in Christ, (see Romans 6).
   - Make encouraging contacts through letters and visits.

8. **How would you strengthen a Christian facing martyrdom?**
   - Teach him to engrait Scripture.
   - Teach him to pray for his enemies.
   - Remove fear of death.

**PROJECT**

Select a Christian who is being persecuted. Choose one of the above actions to minister to that person. Write a report for your Advanced Training Journal.

Date completed ___________ Evaluation ___________
INSIGHTS THROUGH INVESTIGATION

GREEK INVESTIGATION 10

HOW DOES THE GREEK TENSE OF "PERSECUTED" GIVE SPECIAL INSIGHT ABOUT SUFFERING FOR THE LORD?

Stephen’s attitude when he was stoned was instrumental in bringing Saul to salvation and discipleship.

The Apostle Paul instructs Christians to expect persecution if they desire to live Godly in Christ. (See II Timothy 3:12.) When persecution comes, however, most Christians do all they can to get away from the pressures which accompany it.

Sometimes God’s people complain to their leaders (see Exodus 15:24) or even to God about the difficulties they are facing. (See Exodus 14:29.)

In contrast, the book of James stresses the importance of welcoming trials as “friendly intruders.” “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing” (James 1:2-4).

In the Sermon on the Mount, the Lord Jesus proclaims that those who are persecuted will be blessed of God. They will receive the kingdom of heaven.

As He describes the blessing which comes to Christians who experience persecution, He reveals an aspect of persecution which most Christians never consider.

The Lord Jesus uses a Greek verb which appears in the perfect tense. By His use of this particular tense, He specifies which Christians will especially experience the blessing of God upon their lives.

The importance of a Greek tense lies in the type of action which the tense signifies. (To review the distinction between the time of an action and the type of action which Greek tenses designate, see Wisdom Booklet 4, pages 115-118.)

The meaning of the perfect tense in Greek is difficult to translate into English. Therefore, the real significance of a perfect verb is often lost or left unclear in English translation.

Notice the distinctions in translation which different types of action bring out:

1 LINEAR ACTION

Greek tenses which communicate a linear action denote an activity which is in the process of taking place. If Jesus had chosen a linear verb, Matthew 5:10 would read:

Blessed are the ones currently being persecuted

It is significant that Christ did not choose a linear action verb. By doing so He would limit His blessing to those who were in the process of being persecuted. This would require His people to experience persecution constantly in order to see God’s blessing in their lives.

2 PUNCTILIAR ACTION

Greek tenses communicating punctiliar action denote an activity which takes place at a particular point of time. The action is complete and does not have lasting results. If Jesus had chosen a punctiliar verb, Matthew 5:10 would read:

Blessed are the ones who were persecuted in the past
This type of action would limit the blessing to those who experienced persecution in the past.

3 PERFECT ACTION

Greek tenses communicating perfect type action denote an activity which took place in the past but has results in the future. Since Jesus expressed this type of action in Matthew 5:10, an amplified translation might read:

_Blessed are the ones who experienced persecution in the past and still experience the results of that persecution in the future._

By using a perfect action verb, Christ provides significant insights for understanding persecution.

- **Christians may not experience blessing during the actual time of persecution.**
  
  Disillusionment, discouragement, and defeat frequently accompany times of persecution. At times, it is very difficult to see good in what appears to be nothing but bad.
  
  Yet the Lord indicates that those who suffer with Him will one day reign with Him. (See II Timothy 2:12.) He also promises that the persecuted Christian will receive blessings both in this life and the life to come. (See Mark 10:28-31.)

- **Christians frequently experience persecution which has lasting results.**
  
  When a Christian experiences persecution, the results of his persecution may far outlast the actual persecution itself.
  
  The Apostle Paul referred to the marks which he carried in his body. (See Galatians 6:17.) These resulting from persecution he had faced earlier.
  
  It is to people who bear such marks that the Lord promises a special blessing.

- **Christians may not experience blessing until long after the persecution occurs.**
  
  As the Lord pronounced His blessing upon the persecuted, He had certain people in mind. He particularly desired a blessing for those who were still experiencing the results of past persecution.
  
  Christ desired that His people feel a special sense of God’s presence in their lives. The Lord wanted those people to see benefits rather than to feel victimized from those trials which lingered in their lives. He promised they would receive the kingdom of heaven.

**PROJECT**

Read through I Peter and write down the types of responses and rewards of suffering which he explains using the following chart:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Suffering</th>
<th>Proper Responses</th>
<th>Rewards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heaviness through many temptations</td>
<td>Greatly rejoice</td>
<td>The purification of your faith (I Peter 1:6-7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HOW DOES THE PERFECT TENSE EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF VIEWING SUFFERING FROM CHRIST’S PERSPECTIVE?**

As a disciple, Peter heard Jesus say, “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake…” (Matthew 5:10). Later, however, Peter came to Jesus and asked, “…Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?” Jesus realized that Peter did not understand the nature of suffering, and replied, “…I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven” (Matthew 18:21-22).

Peter went through much suffering. He was ridiculed, rebuked, and beaten for preaching the Gospel and eventually he was crucified for his faith. By the time he wrote his first epistle under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he had experienced what it meant to view suffering through the eyes of Christ.

- **The need for suffering**
  
  See I Peter 5:10.

- **The hope for suffering**
  
  See I Peter 5:7.

- **The response for suffering**
  
  See I Peter 2:18-22.
John Wesley experienced persecution early in his life as disgruntled parishioners burned down his home.

A bundle of burning thatch fell from the ceiling into the little girl's bed. She screamed as the flaming stubble scorched her tiny feet. In the streets below neighbors shouted, “Fire! Fire!” as they frantically gathered up buckets and filled them with water.

The uproar awoke their local minister. Realizing that it was the parsonage that was on fire, he quickly led his wife and older children into the muddy street. He inhaled deeply and rushed back into the smoke-filled parlor. The pastor knew that his younger children were still trapped on the second floor.

He ran toward the nursery and called out to the nurse, instructing her to gather up baby Charles and the other young ones and bring them to the top of the stairway. The frightened children held on tightly to the nurse's hem as she guided them through the fire.

Finally, all the children were safe—except one. Little Jacky had been sleeping so soundly that he did not wake up until all the others were gone.

The blazing light fooled the little boy. Thinking it was morning, he opened his bedroom door. There in the hallway the five-year-old saw the roaring flames that had already engulfed the second floor.

The little boy desperately climbed up on an old chest near his window and began to cry. His father tried to reach his room, but the stairway had collapsed. While the heartbroken pastor knelt in prayer for his dying son, one of the neighbors saw little Jacky at the window. But they had no ladder.

Without a moment to spare, one man stood near the charred wall, and another man stood on his shoulders to rescue the helpless child.

When they brought him to his father, the exhausted minister cried out to the crowd, “Come neighbors! Let us kneel down! Let us give thanks to God! He has given me all my eight children: let the house go, I am rich enough!”

Jacky, better known as John Wesley, never forgot that dreadful night, and years later he had these words inscribed under one of his portraits: “...Is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?” (Zechariah 3:2).

The Reverend Samuel Wesley and his wife Susanna were convinced that God had spared their son for a special work. From that time on, they rededicated themselves to the teaching and training of their children for God's glory.

From their earliest days, Mrs. Wesley taught her children to cry quietly and never to grab for their food. Before they could walk or speak, they learned to ask God’s blessing upon His provisions. As Jehovah had led the Chosen People through the wilderness, Susanna led the little Wesleys through the formative years of their lives.

Mrs. Wesley determined in her heart to raise her nineteen children for the Lord. Her philosophy of child rearing was firm and straightforward.

“I insist upon conquering the will of children betimes because this is the only strong and rational..."
foundation of a religious education without which both precept and example will be ineffectual.

"But when this is thoroughly done then a child is capable of being governed by the reason and piety of its parents, till its own understanding comes to maturity, and the principles of religion have taken root in the mind."

Susanna's discipline was carefully balanced by love and concern. She set aside a special time to instruct each child individually from the Bible and talk with them about spiritual matters. Little Jacky never forgot his cherished hour on Thursday evenings that kindled within him a hunger for the righteousness of God.

John expected Oxford students who were studying for the ministry to be spiritually minded.

By the age of seventeen John had dedicated his life to the preaching of the Gospel. He assumed that by going to Christ's Church College at Oxford he would be adequately prepared for the ministry.

To his horror he discovered that many of his classmates who were being prepared for the ministry were blasphemers living in open sin.

The sinful conditions at the school and the taunting of his classmates motivated John Wesley to gather the students who were spiritually minded to meet together once a week for mutual spiritual encouragement and study of the Scriptures.

Charles Wesley, John's younger brother, joined him at Oxford. The brothers strengthened each other in their desire to pursue spiritual matters and provided leadership for the members of the Bible study group.

In addition to their weekly meetings, the earnest members of the study group looked for every opportunity to minister to the sick, poor, and imprisoned.

They established schools for the poor and paid the teacher from their own funds. They regularly visited the prisons, bringing both spiritual and physical refreshment to the inmates. They were also on hand to minister to condemned criminals at their hour of execution.
John and Charles Wesley and their Bible study group began meeting three to four evenings a week to study Greek and Latin together. They also reduced their food and sleep to a minimum so that they would have more funds and time to carry out their spiritual objectives.

They fasted on Wednesday and Friday and became accountable to each other for the strictest evaluation of their conduct.

Wesley His Own Biographeer

Bocardo Prison, Oxford

Such actions did not go unnoticed by the other students at Oxford. Soon the members of the group were mocked and taunted with such names as “Bible moths,” Bible bigots,” and “Methodists.”

The word “Methodist” was given because of the methodical and punctual manner by which they carried out all of their responsibilities.

The heckling students finally labeled the group “The Holy Club,” thinking that to accuse them of the desire to be holy was the greatest insult they could give them.

One tall, earnest young student reproved his fellow students for their mocking and showed interest in the study group. After being invited to join the “Holy Club,” he became a Christian and went on to become one of England’s most outstanding preachers, George Whitefield.

The fellow students were not the only ones, however, who were closely watching John Wesley. The bishop of Oxford’s chapel proclaimed of John, “One day he will be a standard-bearer of the cross either in his own country or beyond the seas.”

John was then chosen to be member of the Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge.

Suddenly, John received sad news. His father was dying. John and Charles rushed to his deathbed. Just before he died Samuel Wesley said to his family, “Be steady; the Christian faith will surely revive in this kingdom: you shall see it though I shall not.” Then he gave to John a parting message which was later to guide him: “The strongest proof of the Christian life is the inward witness.”

The Wesleys sailed to Georgia on the Simmonds.

Eight weeks later, John and Charles sailed to America to become missionaries among the Indians in Georgia. During the fifty-seven day voyage a violent storm erupted on the ocean. Fearing for their lives, passengers began to scream and rush about frantically.

A violent storm occurred during the voyage.

In startling contrast to these passengers was a small band of German Moravians. While other passengers were terrified, the Moravians sang psalms and praised the Lord. They possessed an inner calm and peace that deeply impressed John Wesley. He wrote about them in his journal:

“Sunday, January 25, 1736—At seven I went to the Germans. I had long before observed the great seriousness of their behavior. Of their humility they had given a continual proof, by performing
those servile offices for the other passengers, which none of the English would undertake; for which they desired, and would receive no pay, saying, 'It was good for our proud hearts, and our loving Savior had done more for us.'

"And every day had given them occasion of showing a meekness which no injury could move. If they were pushed, struck, or thrown down, they rose again and went away, but no complaint was found in their mouth."

"There was now an opportunity of trying whether they were delivered from the spirit of fear, as well as from that of pride, anger, and revenge. In the midst of their psalm, wherewith His service began, the sea broke over, split the main-sail in pieces, covered the ship, and poured between the decks as if the great deep had swallowed us up.

"A terrible screaming began among the English. The Germans calmly sang on. I asked one of them afterwards, 'Were you not afraid?' He answered, 'I thank God, no.'"

After landing in Savannah, Wesley met Elder Spangenburg, a Moravian preacher. The devout old Christian quickly sensed an emptiness in the young evangelist and inquired, "Have you the witness within yourself? Does the Spirit of God bear witness with your spirit that you are a child of God?"

Wesley was shocked by the Moravian's line of questioning. Hoping to win the Englishman to the Lord, Spangenburg persisted. "Do you know Jesus Christ?" Wesley replied, "I know Him as the Savior of the world."

"True," responded the Moravian elder, "but do you know that He saves you?" "I hope He has died to save me," answered Wesley. Spangenburg gravely added, "Do you know yourself?" Wesley answered, "I do!" and the interview ended abruptly.

For two years John Wesley attempted to work with the Indians and debtors in Georgia's wilderness. Then he was assigned to a fashionable church to teach in a school for boys. Wherever he found himself, he sought to be a true peacemaker.

When the wealthy boys in the school mocked and quarreled with the boys whose families were too poor to buy them shoes or stockings, John Wesley came to class without stockings or shoes. Before the week ended the derisions and arguments had stopped.

When he tried to establish discipline in the church, however, controversy arose against him. The resentment grew so deep that he concluded that his work was done and made plans to return to England.

On December 3, 1737, John Wesley walked to Port Royal to return to England. He describes his experience in his journal.

"After walking two or three hours, we met with an old man who led us into a small path near which was a line of blazed trees by following which, he said, we might easily come to Port Royal in five or six hours. . . . The night was sharp; however, there was no complaining among us; but after having commended ourselves to God, we lay down close together, and slept till near six in the morning."
Upon returning to England, John faced the rebuke of the Missionary Society in London which had sent him to Georgia. He left that council a very discouraged man. God, however, used these circumstances to prepare John and Charles Wesley for the assurance of their salvation.

The Popular Life of John Wesley

John and Charles revisited Oxford. There they met a Moravian missionary named Peter Boehler. John later wrote, “I was on Sunday the fifth, clearly convinced of unbelief, of the want of that faith whereby alone we are saved.”

The faith John sought came during a meeting at Aldersgate Street some months later. As the leader read Martin Luther’s introduction to the book of Romans, the Holy Spirit revealed the truth of faith to him. John believed in Christ and “felt his heart strangely warmed.”

With the assurance of salvation, John Wesley began a fifty-three year ministry that was to change the course of English and American history, but not without persecution.

Spiritual life in England was at a low ebb. Moral conditions were even more appalling. Every sixth house in England was a grogshop. Disease was rampant. Neither men nor women were safe from drunken feuds. Robbers and drunkards kept the city in terror by day and night.

In 1739, on New Year’s Day, John and Charles Wesley and George Whitefield, together with sixty others, met to pray and seek the Lord. At about three in the morning, the Holy Spirit came upon this group in a special way, and with one voice they praised God. This unity gave them strength and courage for the great persecutions that were to come as they spent their lives spreading the Gospel throughout England and America.

John Wesley began preaching the message of salvation through a conversion experience in the churches of England. The common people heard him gladly, but those who used the churches for social acceptance of their ungodly ways reacted strongly.

As Wesley exposed sin, ministers denounced him, and he was no longer allowed to preach in the churches. He then began to preach in the open air, beginning with a message given while standing on his father’s tombstone.

Dismissed from the churches, Wesley took to the open air.
The word that best characterizes John Wesley's life is faith, which became the means to almost superhuman efforts in evangelizing, in promoting good works of every kind, and in organizing men and women for a life of fulfillment through Jesus Christ. Indefatigable energy and boundless hope led him through a time of persecution to a time of nation-wide recognition. Through it all he remained humble and wholly dedicated to God's work through men.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1727</td>
<td>Takes up assistant pastorate of Wroote, Lincs</td>
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<tr>
<td>1728</td>
<td>William Law's <em>A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life</em>. Law was John Wesley’s mentor for ten years</td>
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<tr>
<td>1729</td>
<td>Returns to Oxford, takes over leadership of Holy Club</td>
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<td>1730</td>
<td>Expulsion of Protestants from Salzburg</td>
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<td>1731</td>
<td>John Wesley’s “conversion” Wednesday, May 24</td>
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<td>1732</td>
<td>George Washington born</td>
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<tr>
<td>1733</td>
<td>Inventions and advances in all the sciences thrust the world into a new age. Discovery was still advancing too with the voyages of Cook. The evangelism of Whitefield and Wesley struggled against Deism and atheism. Where the century led France to divisive revolution, it led England to a new appreciation of the universe in Romanticism.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1734</td>
<td>Preaches in the north of England for the first time with Charles. They establish an orphanage and Sunday School</td>
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<tr>
<td>1735</td>
<td>Death of father Samuel. John and Charles leave for Georgia</td>
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<tr>
<td>1736</td>
<td>Cruden's Concordance to the Bible. Carolus Linnaeus produces the first classification of plants by genus and species.</td>
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<td>1737</td>
<td>Friendship with Sophy Hopkey. John departs from America</td>
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<td>1738</td>
<td>First Methodist Conference at the Foundry, division of the country into Methodist districts</td>
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<td>1739</td>
<td>Separes from Moravians</td>
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<td>1740</td>
<td>English statutes on witchcraft repealed</td>
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<tr>
<td>1741</td>
<td>Preaches in South Wales for first time</td>
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<tr>
<td>1742</td>
<td>First Methodist Conference at the Foundry, division of the country into Methodist districts</td>
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<td>1743</td>
<td>Thomas Jefferson born</td>
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<td>1744</td>
<td>The “Forty Five,” second Jacobite uprising in Scotland and Ireland (see 1715)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1745</td>
<td>Handel's Messiah</td>
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<tr>
<td>1746</td>
<td>Preaches in Ireland for first time (first of 42 trips). Publishes <em>Primitive Physic</em></td>
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<td>1747</td>
<td>Officiates at wedding of Charles Wesley and Sarah Gwynne. His friendship with Grace Murray.</td>
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<td>1748</td>
<td>Voltaire, renowned atheist and biting satirist, publishes play <em>Mahomet the Prophet</em></td>
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<td>1749</td>
<td>Sale of spirits prohibited in Georgia (to 1738)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1750</td>
<td>Henry Fielding's <em>Tom Jones</em> depicts farm, city, and prison life at mid-century</td>
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</tbody>
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John Wesley and the

One hundred years of turmoil, change, and innovation that laid a foundation for our own day.

1751
John marries Mrs. Vazeille. Preaches in Scotland for first time (first of 22 trips)

1752
Benjamin Franklin invents lightning conductor

1753
Samuel Johnson's A Dictionary of the English Language, a landmark of lexicography

1755
Separation of John Wesley from his wife

1756
Mozart born

Mayonnaise first made by Duc de Richelieu

1758
Opening of Methodist Chapel in New York. Founding of Lady Huntington's College of Trevecca

1759
Pope Clement XIV suppresses Society of Jesus (Jesuits) who have become economically and politically powerful.

1760
First British school for deaf and dumb opened in Edinburgh

1762
Jean Jacques Rousseau's Social Contract revolutionizes political theory and later influences American Declaration of Independence and Constitution

1763
Peace of Paris among Britain, France and Spain ends Seven Years War. Britain gains Canada and virtually all land east of Mississippi River

1764
James Hargreaves invents Spinning Jenny

1767
World's first public piano concert

1768
Captain James Cook discovers Australia

1769
Benjamin West's painting The Death of Wolfe, a celebration of contemporary heroism

1770
1764-1774
James Watt's improved design of the steam engine heralds the industrial age.

1771
Francis Asbury, later known as the "Wesley of America" sails across the Atlantic for America

1772
George III releases women and children from bondage in Britain's coal and salt mines

1773
Christianity introduced in Korea

1775
Boston Tea Party

All of Europe legislated or fought wars to clarify lines of monarchical succession as either Protestant (as England) or Catholic (as Austria). The English government added a Prime Minister to guarantee the people's rights under the Hanoverian Succession. Everywhere serfdom was being abolished and slavery coming under attack. England came to dominate the seas and pave the way for Empire. America was the first of two great late-century revolutionary centers; the other was France.
Eighteenth Century World

1781
Death of Wesley's wife

1784
John Wesley ordains Thomas Coke and others for work in America which eventually and unintentionally leads to break with the Anglican Church: "ordination is separation"

1788
March 29 Charles Wesley dies

1778
Opening of City Road Chapel, London

1783
John Wesley visits Holland

1789
French Revolution begins with storming of Bastille

1779
War of Bavarian Succession ends with Peace of Teschen

1787
Richard Allen forms African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia

1781
American War of Independence ends with surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown

1785
Edward Gibbon's Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire completed, claims that Christianity caused the fall of a great culture

1780
Robert Raikes establishes a Sunday School in Gloucester

1787
William Wilberforce, 28, begins agitating against slavery in the British colonies.

1777
Adam Smith's Wealth of Nations, landmark work of capitalism

1784
Shaker leader Mother Ann Lee dies at Waterford, New York

1778
Modern flush toilet invented

1788
March 29 Charles Wesley dies

1791
March 2 John Wesley dies

1794
Reign of Terror in France

1787
Franz Anton Mesmer's pseudoscientific experiments in "mesmerizing" with the power of the eye

1798

1792
Denmark is first country to prohibit slave trade

1792
Eli Whitney, 27, invents Cotton Gin, as result, US cotton production jumps from 140,000 pounds in 1791 to 35 million pounds in 1800

1793
Worship of God abolished in France in extremes of French Revolution

1798
Napoleon Bonaparte leads French army into Egypt

1780
American Declaration of independence

1779
American War of Independence ends with surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown

1781
Robert Raikes establishes a Sunday School in Gloucester

1782
Eli Whitney, 27, invents Cotton Gin, as result, US cotton production jumps from 140,000 pounds in 1791 to 35 million pounds in 1800

1793
Worship of God abolished in France in extremes of French Revolution

1798

Time line courtesy of Christian History Magazine
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Christian History Magazine
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History Resource C (Booklet 10—Preliminary Edition)
John established preaching circuits. He averaged fifteen sermons a week during fifty-four years, beginning at five o’clock each morning. He traveled over a quarter of a million miles, crisscrossing England’s rugged terrain in all kinds of weather. Many found salvation, and the Awakening grew.

The press quickly joined the apostate ministers in denouncing the growing movement. The fiery attack from the press and pulpit against John Wesley and his people has never been surpassed in the history of the English nation.

John wrote, “We were everywhere represented as mad dogs, and treated accordingly. In sermons, newspapers, and pamphlets of all kinds, we were painted as unheard-of-monsters. But this moved us not; we went on testifying salvation by faith, both to small and great, and not counting our lives dear unto ourselves, so we might finish our course with peace.”

The Wesleys were represented as “bold movers of sedition, and ringleaders of the rabble, to the disgrace of their order.” They were denounced by learned clergy as “restless deceivers of the people,” “babblers,” “insolent pretenders.”

They were called “new-fangled teachers,” “rash uncharitable censurers,” “intruding into other men’s labors,” and running “into wild fancies until the pale of the church is too strait for them.” They were considered “half-dissenters in the church and more dangerous to the church than those who were total dissenters from it.”

The rabble in the street soon joined the press and pulpit, and mob violence often accompanied John Wesley’s meetings.

The attacks only served to increase people’s attention to him and the message he delivered. Crowds frequently numbered from twenty to forty thousand. If a mob failed to break up his meeting, they would follow him to his lodging, smash windows, and threaten to take his life.

John Wesley was so undisturbed by this persecution that he would enjoy peaceful sleep with the confidence that God was his protector.

As a result of the persecutions, God poured out his grace upon John Wesley and his followers. This grace gave him the desire and ability to achieve tremendous spiritual accomplishments.

In addition to his amazing preaching and teaching schedule and the travels required by them, he read 1,200 volumes on many subjects.

He wrote grammars of Hebrew, Greek, Latin, French, and English. He wrote, revised, and published a library of fifty volumes. He wrote and published a four-volume commentary on the whole Bible. He compiled a dictionary of the English language, a comprehensive history of England and Rome, a book on electricity, a guide on medicine for the common people, and six volumes of church music.

His abundant labors brought about significant spiritual changes in England and laid the foundation for the spiritual Awakening of Colonial America.
HOW DO THE TACTICS OF PREDATORS ILLUSTRATE THE METHODS OF SATAN IN PURSUING THE RIGHTEOUS?

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

Lions live in groups called prides which consist of one or more males and several females. Each pride has its own territory. Dominant male lions roar to warn other lions not to infringe on their territory. They want all potential prey for themselves and for the other members of their pride. Weaker lions and other animals flee at the roar of a powerful male.

Many lions are ousted in young adulthood from the prides in which they were born and must wander about until they find another pride which will accept them. For a young male, this acceptance often comes only as he challenges an older male in an attempt to wrest from him his position of leadership in a pride. When two male lions face off, the loser of the battle is forced to slink away in shame. Young males, defeated, will try to win a place for themselves in a pride; but once an older lion is downed, he is doomed to roam about on his own until death claims him.

Jesus Christ, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, vanquished Satan when He rose from the grave. Soon He will return to establish His kingdom. At present, however, God still allows Satan limited power in the world. Angered at this defeat by Christ and aware that his time is short, our adversary is on the offensive side. He is determined to draw away as many souls with him as he can.

Thus, to keep believers from serving Christ effectively, he sometimes approaches them with the savage roar of public disapproval or possible persecution. Although Christians have no reason to fear Satan in that Christ has already won the victory for us, unwary believers who do not trust the Lord are often unnerved and destroyed by him.

But Satan does not always approach as a lion. His ploys are many and masterful. Scripture views him as the "arch-predator" and compares him and his agents to other predatory animals, including snakes (see Revelation 12:9 and Matthew 23:33) and wolves (see Acts 20:29). As potential "prey" to the craftiest predator of all, we should study the methods of predators. Learning tactics employed by aggressors in the animal realm can alert us to wiles Satan would use to entrap us.

1. PREDATORS OVERPOWER THEIR PREY BY CONCENTRATING ON THE VICTIM'S WEAKNESS.

Observers of African wildlife used to consider hyenas and jackals as the cowards of the African plain because during the day they would slink around the kills of other predators, hoping to steal food for themselves. Further, these scavengers appeared too small to kill large game and too timid to attack on their own. Recent studies, however, have demonstrated that while these animals may seem fainthearted by day, they are bold killers by night.

Hyenas and jackals know that they are no match for prey that is healthy and strong. Thus, they stalk animals such as gazelles, studying the herd to locate members that are exhausted, injured, or otherwise unable to exercise self-defense. Once they spot a vulnerable animal, they separate it from the herd, attack fearlessly, and when the victim is dead, devour everything except its horns and teeth.
2 PREDATORS ENTICE THEIR PREY BY USING ATTRACTIVE LURES.

The angler fish literally inhales its victim after luring it within range.

The angler fish lives on the ocean floor and is such a poor swimmer that it is unable to chase after its prey. Instead, it brings prey to itself by using an attractive "lure."

Located between its eyes and large mouth is a long, flexible spine with what appears to be a fish tail attached to its end. As the spine bobs up and down, the "lure" jiggles. This movement attracts curious, smaller fish to within a few inches of the angler's waiting jaws. Without warning, the angler opens its mouth and inhales large amounts of water, creating a tremendous underwater vacuum. As water rushes in to fill the vacuum, the prey is violently sucked into the angler's mouth.

The angler's teeth are hinged so that they fold down when a fish is "inhaled." They flip back up into place after the prey is inside.

3 PREDATORS CAPTURE THEIR PREY BY PREPARING INESCAPABLE TRAPS.

A spider's web is an intricate trap from which its prey seldom escapes. To make its traps, the spider produces silk threads from special glands located in its abdomen.

Each of the twenty-five families of spiders has its own design for a web. Orb webs, which people see most often, are used by two families of spiders. To build such a web, the spider begins by attaching "guy wires" to nearby plants. Next it constructs a frame and spins spokes which fan out from the center of the web and anchor onto the surrounding frame and guying lines. Then, starting at center, the spider spins a temporary spiral of non-sticky silk to act as basting, which holds the framework in position as the spider finishes the web. When the temporary spiral is complete, the spider slowly backtracks, constructing a densely woven permanent spiral of sticky (viscid) silk while removing the "basting."

Most spiders sit patiently in the center of their webs, waiting for their prey. When they sense the vibrations of a struggling victim, spiders rush deftly across their webs and further entangle their prey with more silk. Finally, they bite the prey to kill it before dragging it away to eat it.

The Venus's-flytrap, a plant that catches and
eats bugs and flies, provides another example of entrapment.

The Venus’s-flytrap lives in nitrogen-poor soils and supplements its food supply with nitrogen-rich flies. The leaves of the Venus’s-flytrap are tipped with spines that act like prison bars to trap insects between them. The central rib of each leaf contains thin-walled cells that work like hinges. When an insect touches any one of the three trigger hairs located on the inside of the leaf, the hinge cells shrink quickly, causing the two halves of the leaf to close. After the victim has been digested, the leaf opens again slowly and waits for another insect to come too close.

4 PREDATORS STALK THEIR PREY THROUGH DECEPTIVE CONCEALMENT.

Unlike lions, which often hunt in groups on the open plains, tigers hunt alone and depend on concealment to stalk their prey. A tiger’s victim usually has no idea that his enemy is near until after escape is impossible, for a tiger’s stripes blend well with the surrounding trees, bushes, and grass. If his stripes ran parallel to his body outline, a tiger would stand out from the vegetation like an orange flag. However, the stripes run at right angles to the tiger’s body outline, making him almost invisible in the wild.

The pain of a tiger’s powerful jaws clamping shut on its throat may be a victim’s first realization of the presence of this deadly foe.

5 PREDATORS OVERPOWER THEIR PREY BY HUNTING IN GROUPS.

Cape hunting dogs are among the most brutal predators in the world, for they begin feeding on their prey, usually a gazelle, a zebra, or a wildebeest, while it is still alive. Because no one dog is strong enough to take down such a large animal by itself, Cape hunting dogs live and hunt in packs averaging in size from twelve to twenty dogs.

Their black, yellow, and white mottled coats provide the Cape dogs with camouflage, while the ample tuft of white at the tip of each dog’s tail acts as a flag, helping members of the pack to stay together during hunts in thick undergrowth.

A dominant male usually initiates the hunt, which often begins with members following the leader single file. The pack moves slowly and steadily until they spot prospective prey. Once they choose their intended victim, the dogs vigorously pursue their prey. Because these predators can maintain a pace of up to thirty miles per hour, the hunt quickly becomes a test of stamina.

As the leader catches up to the prey, he locks his jaws into any soft flesh he can grab and simply hangs on. This action slows and weakens the victim enough that other dogs can also find a vulnerable spot to attack. Eventually the entire pack converges on the struggling victim and pulls it to the ground. Once it is down, the dogs begin feeding immediately. A large pack of dogs can completely consume a zebra in less than thirty minutes.

An individual Cape hunting dog is harmless by itself, but in packs these carnivores are merciless killers, able to prey on animals many times their size.
6 PREDATORS SEIZE THEIR PREY WITH UNEXPECTED QUICKNESS.

The praying mantis is an insect that strikes in less time than it takes to blink an eye. In fact, the mantis' strike is so rapid that, once initiated, even the insect itself cannot stop or redirect it.

The strike of the mantis contrasts greatly with its other movements. While watching for prey, this predator remains inert for long periods of time. When it does move from one place to another, its motions are extremely slow and deliberate. Thus, the sudden burst of speed with which the mantis attacks is completely unexpected.

Because the eyes of the mantis are immobile, this predatory insect must rotate its entire head to see its victim. Tiny hairs located on the mantis' "shoulders" sense any change in head position and enable the mantis to adjust the angle of its deadly front legs so that they are in line for a strike. A mantis is so accurate that it misses fewer than fifteen times in one hundred attempts.

The attack involves a simple movement of the mantis' two front legs. At rest, these "raptorial limbs" (limbs suited to seizing prey) are folded into the innocent-looking "praying" position which has given the insect its name. As the strike begins, the limbs flash forward, unfolding to reveal a row of spines hidden along the underside of each leg segment. Next, as quickly as they opened, the legs retract. The victim is snagged between the first and second leg segments and then crushed as the segments close like a pair of jaws. The entire operation takes only about thirty one-thousandths of a second!

7 PREDATORS PARALYZE THEIR PREY WITH DESTRUCTIVE MECHANISMS.

Scorpions are equipped to make doubly sure of their prey. They have two sets of claws. The "pedipalps" are large pincers that look like the scorpion's arms; the "chelicerae" are much smaller claws located close to the mouth. First, scorpions use the pedipalps to capture prey and hold it. Then they inject the victim with poison.

Every scorpion has a sting at the tip of its tail behind which lie connected poison glands. When preparing to strike, the scorpion arches its tail high into the air. Then it lowers its tail over its head and thrusts the sting into its securely held victim. Once the prey has been paralyzed, the scorpion transfers it from the pedipalps to the chelicerae, which hold it while the scorpion slowly feeds.

Most scorpions have poisons deadly only to certain invertebrates, but a few species carry toxins which can harm or even kill a man. One dangerous species native to northern Africa is so lethal that once stung, a dog will live less than seven minutes, a man less than seven hours.

Another well-armed predator, the electric eel, immobilizes its prey with high-voltage electric shocks. Electric organs make up over eighty percent of the eel's body, leaving only a small space behind the head for organs of digestion, excretion, and reproduction.

Electric eels have three pairs of electric organs, each made up of thousands of tiny, flat, plate-shaped cells which can generate from 0.1 to 0.15 volts of electricity apiece. Because these electroplates are stacked back to back like battery plates, their charges combine to produce currents ranging from 200 to 800 volts, depending on the size of the eel.

**Striking sequence of a praying mantis: when the legs are extended, they are almost three times their folded length.**
The largest set of electric organs, beginning near the head and running to the tail, are the killer organs. Below this set lie two smaller pairs. These send out low-charge electric impulses which help the eel to find its way through muddy waters and to locate potential prey. They also enable the eel to communicate with others of its species and to warn enemies to stay away.

The eel's violent electrical shock disrupts the electrical circuits of its victim's nervous system, paralyzing heart, lungs, and muscles instantly. While such a current can stun a man or a horse, it has no effect on the well insulated eel itself.

Though called an eel because of its appearance, the electric eel, which lives in the Amazon and Orinoco Rivers of South America, is actually a fish related to the carp and the catfish.

Covering the surface of the tapeworm's body is a thick mucus that protects the skin from the digestive juices of its host. The skin surface also bristles with backward-pointing spines which prevent the worm from being swept away with materials passing through the host's digestive tract.

This live-in predator weakens its victim, sapping it of energy, rendering it more vulnerable to disease, and often shortening its life.

**9 PREDATORS LOCATE THEIR PREY BY WATCHING FOR SIGNS OF LIFE.**

Special sense organs of the rattlesnake enable it to hunt in complete darkness. Tiny pits between a rattlesnake's nostrils and eyes are sensitive to infrared light. Thus, the rattlesnake can actually "see" the heat emitted by warm-blooded prey. Because the pits are located one on each side of the head, a rattlesnake can turn its head to "balance" the reception of a heat pattern and thereby center in on the location of the heat source.

The forked tongue of the rattler also aids it in locating prey. As the tongue flicks in and out, it picks up molecules of a victim's scent and deposits them into two small chambers in the roof of the snake's mouth. These cavities, known as "Jacobson's organ," interpret the type of prey nearby. This mechanism also helps the predator to determine the location of potential prey. Greater scent on the right fork indicates that the animal is to the right; equal amounts on both forks, that it is straight ahead.

The rattlesnake's infrared "eyes" detect temperature differences as small as .005 degrees.
Sharks also possess an amazing means of locating their prey in the form of a lateral line sensory system. Running along each side of a shark's body is a canal filled with fluid which enables this predator to monitor even the slightest movements in surrounding water.

Jelly-filled tubes located in the shark's head complete this system. With these tubes the shark can pick up the electrical fields of sea creatures in the vicinity—even of the fish buried in the sand. In addition, the shark has olfactory bulbs in the forepart of its brain, which allow it to detect, interpret, and track smells that travel through the water.

Using these devices, as well as its sharp eyes, a shark will "take readings" on its prey, moving around it in smaller and smaller spirals. Once spotted, an intended victim is almost doomed to death in the jaws of the shark, the largest, fastest, and most vicious predatory fish.

Ninety years of records kept by fur trappers hunting lynx and snowshoe hare in Canada clearly demonstrate this relationship. When the hare population climbed, the lynx population followed; as lynx grew more numerous, the number of hares declined.

The reasons for this pattern are twofold. First, more prey can obviously support a greater number of predators. Second, predators, encouraged by an abundance of prey, will feed more frequently.

Thus as the lynx increased in number as well as in frequency of attack per animal, the hare supply would quickly begin to ebb. Dwindling numbers of hares could then support fewer lynx. As its predators grew scarce, the hares, largely unmolested, would enlarge their ranks once again. The cycle continues over and over.

Animal populations fluctuate with the availability of plant foods, harshness of weather, incidence of parasitism, and number of deaths by accident. However, population changes in predators and their prey are also directly related, especially when a predator looks largely to one particular species for food.

10 PREDATORS ATTACK MORE FREQUENTLY AS THE NUMBER OF POTENTIAL VICTIMS RISES.

Under each of the following main points write out at least one example of a danger you face from Satan.

1. Satan concentrates on my weakness of . . .
2. Satan tries to entice me with . . .
3. Satan tries to trap me in . . .
4. Satan tries to deceive me by . . .
5. Satan tries to overpower me when . . .
6. Satan tries to surprise me by . . .
7. Satan tries to paralyze me with . . .
8. Satan tries to "wear me down" by . . .
9. Satan is alert to my growth in . . .
10. Satan increases his attacks when . . .

PROJECT
A. Musk ox protect their young by forming a continuous circle around them. Read about the musk ox in Character Sketches, Volume I, page 256.

B. Armor plates cover every inch of a pangolin.

C. Read about the eastern box turtle's armor in Character Sketches, Volume II, page 180.

D. Read about the porcupine's armor in Character Sketches, Volume III, page 94.

E. Lapwings gather in flocks to keep crows from preying on their young.

F. The bombardier beetle produces an explosive bang to defend itself.

G. Read about the powerful weapon the skunk uses in Character Sketches, Volume I, page 166.

SELECT THE SPECIES THAT BEST FITS THE FOLLOWING DEFENSES:
(Some boxes will contain more than one answer.)

1. Victims can make full use of their protective armor. (See Romans 13:12 and Ephesians 6:10-17.)

2. Victims can associate with those that are strong. (See Romans 15:1-7 and Galatians 4:2.)

3. Victims have their own powerful weapons with which to stand and fight. (See I Samuel 17:45; Psalm 20:7; II Corinthians 10:3-5; I Thessalonians 3:8; Hebrews 4:12; Revelation 12:11.)

4. Victims can remain constantly alert for danger. (See Matthew 26:41; Colossians 4:2-3; I Thessalonians 5:6; II Timothy 4:5; I Peter 5:8.)

5. Victims can flee from danger. (See I Corinthians 10:11-14; I Timothy 6:10-12; II Timothy 2:22.)

6. Victims can seek protection in unity with others. (See Deuteronomy 28:7-10; Judges 20:11; Psalm 125:1-3; Psalm 133:1-3; Matthew 18:19-20; Hebrews 10:24-25.)
How do the properties of friction allow us to understand the forces of persecution?

1. Without friction there would be no forward motion.

Just as we need friction against our feet in order to walk forward, we need opposition to our spiritual “feet” in order to walk in the Lord.

Paul spoke of the forces of opposition when he said, “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Ephesians 6:12). Yet this opposition benefits Christians as the properties of friction illustrate.

Place a long, wide board on the floor between two sturdy tables so that you will have something to hold onto if you start to fall. Next, place some rollers (dowels, pipes, round pencils) under the board so that there is very little friction between the board and the floor.

Carefully get on the board, holding onto the tables. Start walking forward and watch what happens to the board as you push against it.

Take the board off the rollers and place it on the floor. You can walk along it now. Why? Without friction it is impossible to push against the earth. You cannot move forward to meet your destination.

2. Friction increases as pressure and surface irregularities increase.

The force of friction is opposite to the direction of motion.

As you walk forward, the bottom of your shoe pushes against the ground as the ground pushes against your shoe. If the surface of your shoe and the surface of the ground were sufficiently magnified, you would see how rugged and uneven they are.

These irregularities resist and push against one another. This resistance or opposition of the ground against the forward push of your shoe is called friction.

The following properties of friction open up significant insights into the function and value of persecution.

The pressure that an object exerts on the ground is measured by its weight. This force of the weight pushing against the ground and the ground pushing against the weight is called the normal force. The normal force of a 300 pound box resting on the ground is 300 pounds.

\[ W \text{ (weight)} = N \text{ (normal force)} \]
How much normal force exists between you and the ground? ________________

- Compare different normal forces
  Push one book across the table.

  Weight of one book
  Push
  Normal force
  Friction

Now stack six books on top of the table and push them across the table.

  Weight of six books
  Push
  Normal force
  Friction

What is the difference in the normal forces of the one book and the six books? ________________

How did the resistance to the push (or force of friction) vary? ________________

- Compare the resistance of different surfaces

  Since irregularities in the surface of two materials also increase resistance, we can conclude that the greater the irregularities, the greater the resistance of friction.

  Taking care to apply the same normal force, compare pushing a metal spoon against a sauce pan, a leather belt against a wooden table, and a rubber eraser against the sidewalk. Record your results in the following column.

What evidence do you see from this photograph that friction exists between a car's tires and the road?

  The equation that expresses the relationship between friction (F), normal force (N), and different surfaces (μ) is:

  $F = \mu \times N$

  The values for μ have been calculated and are put in table form like the one below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surface Irregularities</th>
<th>Rate easy, harder, or hardest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metal against metal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leather against wood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubber against concrete</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approximate Values of μ for Dry Surfaces</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metal on metal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal on wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal on stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal on leather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood on wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood on leather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stone on stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth on earth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubber on concrete</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

  The lower the numbers, the lower the friction and the smoother the surface. The higher the numbers, the greater the friction and the rougher
the surface. $\mu$ for each combination of surfaces is expressed within a certain range; i.e., metal on metal ranges from 0.15-0.60, depending on the type and condition of the metal.

If someone were to push with 100 pounds of force against a 300-pound wooden box across a wooden floor, would that force be great enough to move the box?

Set up the equation for the force of friction.

$$F = \mu \times N$$

Substitute the known values for $N$ and $\mu$.

**As the friction increases, so does the heat.**

4 HEAT IS ENERGY WHICH CAN SERVE USEFUL PURPOSES.

Two sticks can be rubbed together to start a fire. By twisting a stick in a hole in wood, friction is produced. With greater friction, a greater temperature is reached until the wood bursts into flame. This valuable flame provides warmth and light.

3 AS FRICTION INCREASES, HEAT INCREASES.

The driving of a nail into wood, the moving of one hand against another, the rubbing of sandpaper against wood—all these actions involving friction produce heat.

**PROJECT**

RELATE THE PROPERTIES OF FRICTION TO THE FORCES OF PERSECUTION

1. Illustrate the fact that no forward spiritual motion can be achieved without resistance and persecution. (See II Timothy 3:12.)
2. Is it true that for every force of God there is an equal and opposite force from Satan? (See I John 4:4.)
3. Name three positive benefits of friction which result from spiritual growth. (See I Peter 4:14.)
4. Name a time in history when persecution caused Christians to “get on fire.”
5. List five benefits of friction which illustrate benefits which you have received from persecution.

Date completed __________ Evaluation ______________
HOW HAS HUMANISM TAKEN OVER OUR BIBLICALLY-BASED LAW SYSTEM?

The Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Bill of Rights are sealed under glass in this display at the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C.

The early framers of our Constitution fully understood the need for Christian philosophy and principles in the content of the government they sought to develop. The principles of the Word of God permeated colonial America, although not every person was a believer. America was Christian to the extent that it thought and acted from a Biblical base.

Each state assumed the responsibility to implement laws pertaining to crime, property, and family. The Tenth Amendment to the Constitution guaranteed the individual states the power to make such laws.

Many early state laws originated directly from Sir William Blackstone's Commentaries. Sir Blackstone, a Christian, believed that the fear of the Lord was the beginning of wisdom. He took it as self-evident that the source of all laws is God. He based his beliefs upon the existence of an omnipotent God who governs the affairs of men, concluding that man is bound by God's laws, which are the absolutes of society.

"Man, considered as a creature, must necessarily be subject to the laws of his Creator, for he is entirely a dependent being. A being independent of any other, has no rule to pursue, but such as he prescribes to himself. . . ."

The Declaration of Independence, which says that "the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God" entitled the colonists to independence, clearly evidences William Blackstone's influence. This document professes faith in a "Creator" who works and governs the affairs of men, professing that man is a fallen creature and must rely on that Creator to be the lawgiver and judge. The early American legal system enfolded this type of thinking.
During the Jefferson administration, America made the Louisiana Purchase on May 2, 1803. The purchase included 827,987 square miles at a cost of $15 million, which doubled the size of the United States. Unfortunately, the Louisiana territory, which France previously owned, did not accept the English common law. French-controlled territories fell under the jurisdiction of the Napoleonic Code, a totally humanistic legal system influenced by Robespierre and Rousseau. This system came out of the French Revolution in 1790.

The territory of the Louisiana Purchase

The key words in understanding French law are fairness and equality. French law promotes individual liberties, equality in labor relations, and equal rights. While on the surface these qualities seem good, in effect they totally changed the view of law. They promote a substitution of situational ethics for Biblical principles. Eventually, men began to use situational ethics to interpret an individual's actions and to develop a humanistic legal system for the new states and territories.

Things were so different under this law system that even after Louisiana became a state, its citizens did not have the right to trial by jury. Leaders deemed this privilege unnecessary, since state leadership allowed a person to explain his actions in light of his surroundings. It was not until after World War II that Louisiana established the right to trial by jury.

As America grew and expanded westward, state laws greatly changed. In the West, where cattle was of prime importance, a man's horse constituted both his livelihood and his very life. Therefore, someone convicted of horse thievery could be liable for execution. Various states punished by death those individuals committing murder or robbery with violence. Because of the lack of jails and judges, these states established stricter penalties to curtail much of the lawlessness.

Such harsh penalties led many Westerners to conclude that doing wrong was not worthwhile. In some parts of the Southwest, the United States Cavalry was the only law.
Until this time in America’s history, society based its laws on the Biblical principle of right and wrong. The American Civil War changed all of this. In 1861, war began to sweep across America. This war accomplished far more than the freeing of slaves.

The Civil War was a turning point.

The Civil War changed America from a country with state-controlled government to a federally controlled country with its power centrally located in Washington, D.C. The Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution took the power from the states and gave it to the government. This led to a new type of government which is called a democracy. Democracy comes from the Greek words δῆμος (DAY-moss) meaning “people,” and χρατεο (krah-TEH-oh) meaning “to possess” or “to govern.” The power resided fully in the hands of the masses. Now there existed “equality” such as the “equality” the French Revolution propagated.

The Fourteenth Amendment did more than simply create bad changes, it created a major problem by shifting the philosophy. This shift in the philosophy of government produced ensuing changes in the philosophy of law.

The fundamental emphasis of America’s founding fathers in interpreting law was that law is God-given with its foundations rooted in the Bible, possessing definite absolutes.

A series of Supreme Court cases in the late nineteenth century, in which congressional acts against bigamy were upheld, aptly illustrated this truth. The Supreme Court held that the First Amendment of the Constitution did not protect the Mormon practice of polygamy because “it is contrary to the spirit of Christianity and of the civilization which Christianity has produced in the Western world.” [Late Corporation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints v. United States, 136 U.S. 1 (1890).] Underlying the Court’s decision was the fact that polygamy was contrary to Biblical standards. In essence, the court used the Bible as its final reference point.

However, in less than one-hundred years the court replaced interpretation of law with a humanistic view.

Three myths characterize this humanistic interpretation of law:
• Denial of absolutes
• Constant evolving of law
• Replacement of God’s authority with man’s authority

In the 1973 decision of Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court struck down a Texas criminal law which proscribed obtaining or attempting an abortion. The court held that an unborn child is not a person and can claim no rights to vie with a woman’s “right to privacy.” [Roe v. Wade, 410 U.S. (1973).]

In effect, the Court held that an abortion law cannot be based upon an absolute moral judgment either Biblical or natural, concerning the inception of life.

A legal society in which man regards law as man-made and changing rather than God-given and absolute allows the law to become whatever the judges of that system interpret it to be. Whenever a judge decides a case, he is in a real sense making the law.

Along with such changes in the interpretation of law came drastic changes in the training of lawyers. In the early years of the United States, most lawyers “read for the law” by self-study and apprenticing under a practicing attorney. Many great

Amendment 14

Civil Rights

This amendment was proposed on June 13, 1866, and ratified on July 9, 1868.

Section 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.
legal minds learned in this fashion, including Sir William Blackstone, Chief Justice John Marshall, Abraham Lincoln, John Adams, and Alexander Hamilton. This one-on-one type training led to individuality among lawyers. Law became a colorful profession, with its Biblical foundation still pervasive.

By the end of the nineteenth century, the need for lawyers greatly increased with the growth of bureaucracy. It became necessary to train lawyers more quickly in the vastly expanding field of law.

George Wythe, at William and Mary College, gave the first systematic training in law. He based his lectures on Sir Blackstone’s Commentaries. In 1816, the Harvard Law School began; it is now the oldest and most successful law school in the United States.

Chief Justice Holmes wholeheartedly accepted the evolutionary views of Charles Darwin and Herbert Spencer. About Spencer, Justice Holmes said that it is doubtful that “any writer of English except Darwin has done so much to affect our whole way of thinking about the universe.”

Spencer was a strong believer in individualism. He preached that liberty and happiness are the chief goals of man. Spencer also promoted “survival of the fittest.” Spencer felt that society would evolve if individuals gained increasing freedom. He defended the basis for what today we call Social Darwinism.

At the age of thirty-seven, Spencer came to the conclusion that the universal principle of evolution provides a basis on which to present all sciences and knowledge. Thereafter, he sought to relate all departments of knowledge to the theory of evolution. After the Civil War, it became impossible to be active in any educational field without being indoctrinated in Spencer’s ideology.

The concepts that Herbert Spencer taught and Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., propagated greatly influenced the law schools. These concepts led to a new interpretation of the formation of law.

Law schools began teaching that law evolved from one decision to another. The facts of a case determined the decision; thus, changes in facts determined variations in decisions. This eliminated the importance of the use of principles in making decisions. Man considered principles to be too rigid to evaluate extenuating circumstances and, therefore, to be an inappropriate basis for decision making.

The only principles left in court decisions were residual principles from previous decisions. As decisions became more and more bizarre, fewer and fewer principles from previous cases would remain. Thus, the American law system eroded from its Biblical foundation to a philosophy of situational ethics.

This erosion came to an apex when Chief Justice Earl Warren came to the bench in 1969. The Chief Justice called the Constitution an “elastic document.” He said that what the founding fathers intended was irrelevant, and that the Constitution is simply what the judges say it is. Justice Warren pragmatically stated that the Constitution had to change in order to fit a changing, modern society.

The Supreme Court ultimately assumed the responsibility of applying the Constitution in the manner it felt best fit. Since the ultimate standard became the judgment of the Court, the United States has a government which finds its basis in man’s changing values instead of God’s Law and principles.

Date completed ___________ Evaluation ___________

Harvard College

The Harvard Law School established that one learns law by studying the decisions of judges. Today, all law schools use the “casebook” method for training. Students read and study the leading decisions of judges in a particular area of law to learn how legal doctrine has “evolved.” This new, humanistic training produces an entirely different interpretation of law.

An influential product of these early law schools was philosopher, writer, and Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. He was a chief exponent of the theory that law changes as society changes.

Justice Holmes intimidated many of the other justices of the court with his oratorical ability and intellectual aloofness. He was well-educated and outspoken in his views on law and government.

His philosophy of law was humanistic, deeply imbued with the cynicism of the social Darwinists of his day.
HOW DO PHYSICAL BENEFITS OF PAIN REVEAL THE SPIRITUAL BENEFITS OF PERSECUTION?

We never get used to pain; it forces us to deal with what is causing it.

Physical pain is an unwelcome intruder. However, pain can be a beneficial signal because it alerts us to a potential danger.

Understanding the purpose of pain in our physical lives also provides a new perspective on the benefits of persecution in our spiritual lives. We can learn to appreciate these intruders as marvelous gifts of God for our physical and spiritual well-being.

1 Pain intensifies communication with the head as persecution intensifies communication with God.

Sense receptors throughout the body send messages of pain to the brain. If something interrupts communication between sense receptors and the brain, the body will not feel pain, and serious damage may result.

If the body could not feel pain, everyday activities would become hazardous. Easy tasks, such as gripping a handle, turning a key, or opening the lid of a jar, become dangerous. An individual who does not feel pain might grip an object too hard, tearing his skin or breaking his bones.

Certain forms of leprosy affect the body like an anesthetic, numbing the pain receptors in the hands, feet, ears, nose, and eyes. A victim of this type of leprosy can feel heat, cold, and pressure, but cannot determine when the temperature or pressure is dangerous.

Doctors originally thought that the disease itself causes decayed tissue and lost limbs. However, they have recently found that the damage occurs as a result of the wounds a patient inflicts upon himself because he is not aware of the pain.

A minor kitchen burn or cut on a person with this type of disease may go unnoticed; infection may soon set in, leading to greater tissue damage.

A person who cannot feel pain must limit his activities because of the special hazards he would face. A carpenter would be in constant danger of inadvertently sawing through a finger, hand, or foot.
To prevent the complications that arise from these injuries, a device called a thermogram is used to help pinpoint areas of tissue damage. The thermogram translates body temperatures in varying colors on a monitor. The colors which represent higher temperatures indicate tissue damage. Thus, the doctor knows where to treat injuries. However, this device only helps to repair damage which has already occurred; it cannot take the place of a properly functioning pain system to alert the brain to danger.

A thermogram showing differences in body temperatures.

HOW PAIN IS COMMUNICATED TO THE BRAIN

Sensitivity to pain is only one function of the nervous system. The nervous system also indicates the senses of temperature and pressure, the senses of movement and balance, and the senses of smell, taste, and sight.

Sense receptors that detect temperature and pressure changes are located in varying concentrations throughout the body. For example, the hand has a higher concentration of sense receptors than the bottom of the foot. Therefore, the hand is capable of detecting much finer distinctions in touch than the foot.

The main unit of sensory perception is the neuron. The largest part of the neuron is the cell body. Extending from the cell body are the dendrites, which carry impulses from outside stimuli toward the cell body. The nucleus of the cell body processes these impulses and passes them to other neurons and tissues through its axon. The nerve impulses are passed through the central nervous system to the brain.

Pain begins when first-order neurons respond to outward stimuli. The information travels through these neurons to the spinal cord. Upon arrival, the second-order neurons pick up the signals and transport them upward through the spinothalamic tract to the thalamus of the brain. The thalamus interprets these impulses as pain.

Pain impulses pass from one neuron to another.

2 Pain motivates us to deal with physical needs as persecution motivates us to deal with spiritual needs.

Pain receptors are the body’s first warning that something is wrong. When all the members of the body are in correct communication with the head, the brain interprets the pain receptors’ warning signals and alerts the body that it is in danger.

Our senses of smell and hearing are adaptable. For instance, we get “used to” both pleasant and unpleasant smells over a period of time. A pie can be baking in the oven and we are not fully aware of how good it smells until we step outside for a few minutes. We can also get so used to the ticking and chiming of a grandfather clock that we no longer hear it.
The sensory pathway for pain and temperature

Nerve impulses travel from the pain receptors to the spine and up the spinal column to the brain.

However, the body's sense of pain is not adaptable. The body never gets used to pain. In fact, as pain continues, it actually amplifies as it calls on the rest of the body for help. Pain is much too powerful to be ignored.

A five-year study was conducted to develop an artificial pain receptor to be used by people with malfunctioning pain systems. Since "pain" could not be used as a warning signal, alternate methods were tried. Blinking lights, buzzing noises, and other kinds of alarms were used to warn the person that what he was doing was harmful.

In every instance, the person ignored the warning signal and finished the task he was doing. In some cases, people turned off the alarms and continued their work at the risk of causing themselves bodily harm.

Pain must be strong to gain the body's attention. It must be continuous in order to keep the body's attention focused on the problem area. The body then works to eliminate the pain in any way that it can.

For example, a large area of inflammation in the skin is actually the sharing of an intense pain that is occurring in only a small number of cells. The body does this to reduce the pain's concentration. As the size of the inflammation grows, it draws more attention to itself, telling the rest of the body that one of its members is hurting and needs help.

3 Pain enlist the aid of other parts of the body as persecution enlists the support of other Christians.

When a member of the body is undergoing pain, the rest of the body will work to reduce or eliminate it. Pain calls attention to the hurting member and demands action from the other members of the body.

During times of emergency, severely wounded soldiers did not feel their pain. However, after the emergency was over, the message from the pain receptors was left.
Pain can be grouped into three classes—pricking, burning, and aching. Pain results from any interruption of blood flow. Lack of blood changes the chemical makeup of damaged cells. When the chemical composition is right, the threshold of pain is reached. The pain receptors located in the corpuscles nearest to the area of damage are activated and send nerve impulses to the brain.

Pricking pain is felt when the skin is jabbed with a needle, cut with a knife, or damaged over a large area like a bruise.

Burning pain is felt when extremes of hot and cold temperatures damage the body tissue, as sunburn and frostbite do.

Aching pain is felt deeper in the body where pain receptors are fewer and farther apart. Therefore, the brain is unable to pinpoint the exact location of the damaged tissue.

Pricking pain pathway
Type A fibers

Burning and aching pain pathway
Type C fibers

Reticular activating system

Thalamus

To Somatic sensory areas

Pain tracts

The pain pathway to the brain

Pain signals travel to the brain along two different types of nerve fibers. Type A fibers transmit signals at speeds between six and thirty meters per second. Type C fibers send their signals at slower speeds between one half and two meters per second.

All three types of pain follow the same pathway to the brain along type A and type C fibers. As the fibers pass into the brain, the pathways separate. Pricking pain follows type A fibers into one part of the brain, while burning and aching pain follow type C fibers into another area of the brain.

Because pricking pain travels on type A fibers which are faster, sensations of pricking reach the brain first. The area of the brain where type A fibers end enables the brain to pinpoint exactly where the tissue damage has occurred and to call for an immediate response, such as the removal of whatever is causing the pricking.

Burning and aching pain signals take slightly longer to reach the brain because they pass along the slower type C fibers. These fibers end in a different part of the brain than do the type A fibers. This area of the brain, where the burning and aching pain fibers end, has the ability to activate the entire nervous system. It could awake a person from sleep, creating a sense of urgency and activating a person’s entire defense system.

Pain that originates in one part of the body but that is felt in another part is called referred pain. Referred pain occurs because of the common nerve pathways that different organs and areas of the body share. Pain impulses from the heart travel the same pathways as pain impulses from the skin of the left shoulder and the inside of the left arm. The pain receptors for the stomach use the same nerve paths as the pain receptors for the upper abdomen.

When one member of the body experiences pain, all members of the body are aware of it. Pain in one part of the body produces tension in the rest of the body so that the rest of the body is made aware of the damaged member. A body member incapacitated because of pain affects the entire body because it loses the benefits of that member’s function.

**PROJECT**

1. Recall a time when physical pain or persecution caused you to increase your prayer life. Turn to the Psalms and see how persecution motivated David to cry out to the Lord.

2. Recall a time when pain or persecution forced you to stop what you were doing to deal with immediate or spiritual needs.

3. Remember a time of physical or spiritual pain when you appreciated the concern and help of others. Think of someone who is going through physical or spiritual pain right now and respond in an appropriate way to share that pain.

4. Thank God for the benefits of pain and persecution.

*Date completed  Evaluation*