

# Celebration and Worship

Sunday, September 23, 2007

For your benefit, as well as for those around you, we offer child-care for birth - three year old. An usher/greeter will assist you to the preschool area. Our Sunday morning service is broadcast weekly at 11:00 a.m. on WKXX, 102.9 FM. **Please turn off your cell phones during service time.**

## **LIVING HAPPILY EVERY AFTER: HAPPY ARE THE PERSECUTED**

*The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. For everyone who practices wicked things hates the light and avoids it, so that his deeds may not be exposed. (John 3:19-20 HCSB)*

*Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs. "Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of Me. Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matthew 5:10-12 HCSB)*

*"If the world hates you, understand that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love [you as] its own. However, because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of it, the world hates you. Remember the word I spoke to you: 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you." (John 15:18-20 HCSB)*

*In fact, all those who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. (2 Timothy 3:12 HCSB)*

**Life Truth: There is a false notion that God blesses righteous people today with peace, prosperity and general goodness as the world knows it.**

**Are righteous people really persecuted?** The followers of Jesus who live in His righteousness will be persecuted.

**Why are the righteous persecuted as opposed to others who are good and noble?** Exposing people to the righteousness of Christ Jesus exposes people's sinfulness.

*Everyone who makes a practice of doing evil, addicted to denial and illusion, hates God-light and won't come near it, fearing a painful exposure. (John 3:20 MSG)*

**If our concept of Christianity is that the world will respect and admire us because we are followers of Jesus Christ then our concept is all wrong.**

*Woe to you when all people speak well of you, because this is the way their ancestors used to treat the false prophets. (Luke 6:26 HCSB)*

*You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8b HCSB)*

The word for witness can be translated “martyr”. Being a witness—living the testimony of Christ Jesus—is to be a martyr for Christ Jesus.

***Pastor’s Suggested Daily Bible Reading...***

Monday	September 24	1 Timothy 1
Tuesday	September 25	1 Timothy 2
Wednesday	September 26	1 Timothy 3
Thursday	September 27	1 Timothy 4
Friday	September 28	1 Timothy 5
Saturday	September 29	Psalms 110, 111
Sunday	September 30	Psalms 112