

An aerial photograph of a busy crosswalk with white stripes on a dark asphalt surface. Several pedestrians are walking across the crosswalk, and their long shadows are cast across the stripes. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

LAST DAYS LIVING

A STUDY IN I & II THESSALONIANS

“The Products of Persecution”

II THESSALONIANS 1:3-5

Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

II Timothy 4:2

*Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in
Christ Jesus will be persecuted,*

II Timothy 3:12

“Christianity is not the removal of suffering, but the addition of grace to endure suffering triumphantly.”



Thomas Watson

“The world is a sea in
which the church,
like a ship,
is beaten by the waves,
but not submerged.”



Hippolytus of Rome

KEY POINT:

**We never suffer in vain.
Persecution will work for our good.**

1. Increasing Faith (vs. 3a)

Some Products of Persecution

*²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground,
this is the one who hears the word and
immediately receives it with joy,
²¹ yet he has no root in himself,
but endures for a while,
and when tribulation or persecution arises on
account of the word, immediately he falls away.*

Matthew 13:20-21

*³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine,
or nakedness, or danger, or sword?*

³⁶ As it is written,

*“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”*

*³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors
through him who loved us.*

Romans 8:35-37

*³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life,
nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to
come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in
Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 8:38-39

⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

I Peter 1:6-7

“You will probably grow more in the cloudy and dark days of adversity than you will while the sun of prosperity is shining brightly upon you; so be of good courage, beloved, under the most adverse circumstances, for they are working for your lasting good.”



Charles Spurgeon

1. Increasing Faith (vs. 3a)
2. Abounding Love (vs. 3b)

Some Products of Persecution

- Involves sacrifice
- Expresses itself without demanding return
- God poured out agape (Rom 5:5).
- A fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:6)
- Evidence of our salvation (John 13:34-35; I John 2:10)

Agape Love

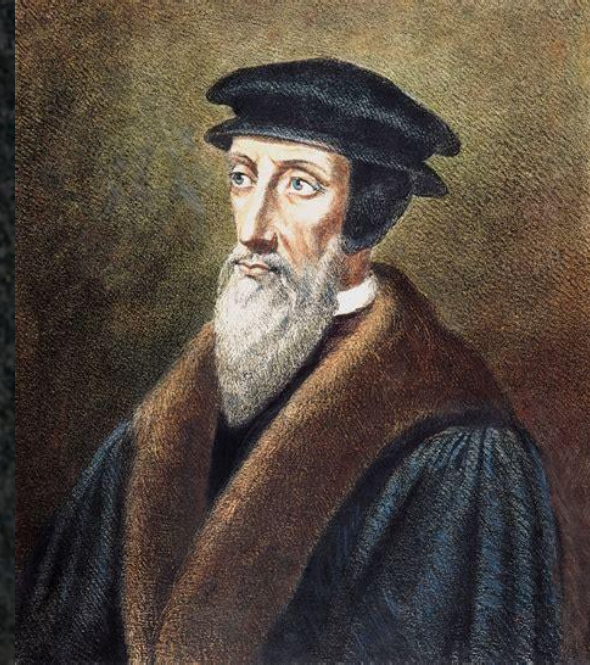
*Beloved, let us love one another,
for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born
of God and knows God.*

I John 4:7

1. Increasing Faith (vs. 3a)
2. Abounding Love (vs. 3b)
3. Commendable Testimony (vs. 4)

Some Products of Persecution

“We glory in the
patience which springs
from faith,
and we bear witness
that it eminently shines
forth in you.”



John Calvin

*² Count it all joy, my brothers,
when you meet trials of various kinds,
³ for you know that the testing of your faith
produces steadfastness.*

James 1:2-3

¹⁵ For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

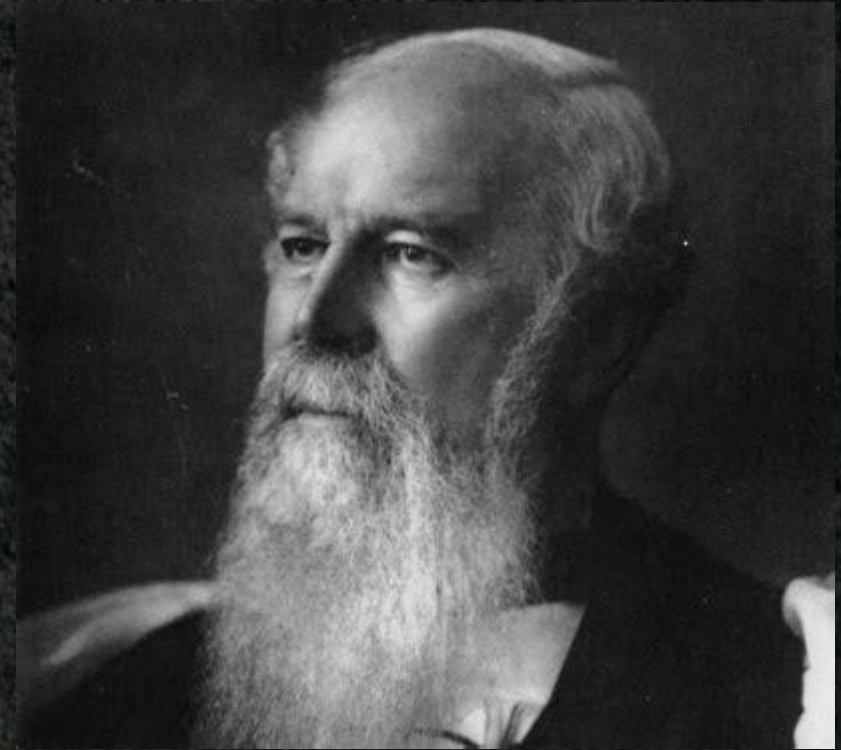
¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,

¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

II Corinthians 4:15-18

“Affliction is one of God's medicines! By it He often teaches lessons which would be learned in no other way. By it He often draws souls away from sin and the world, which would otherwise have perished everlastingly. Health is a great blessing but sanctified disease is a greater. Prosperity and worldly comfort, are what all naturally desire, but losses and crosses are far better for us if they lead us to Christ. ...

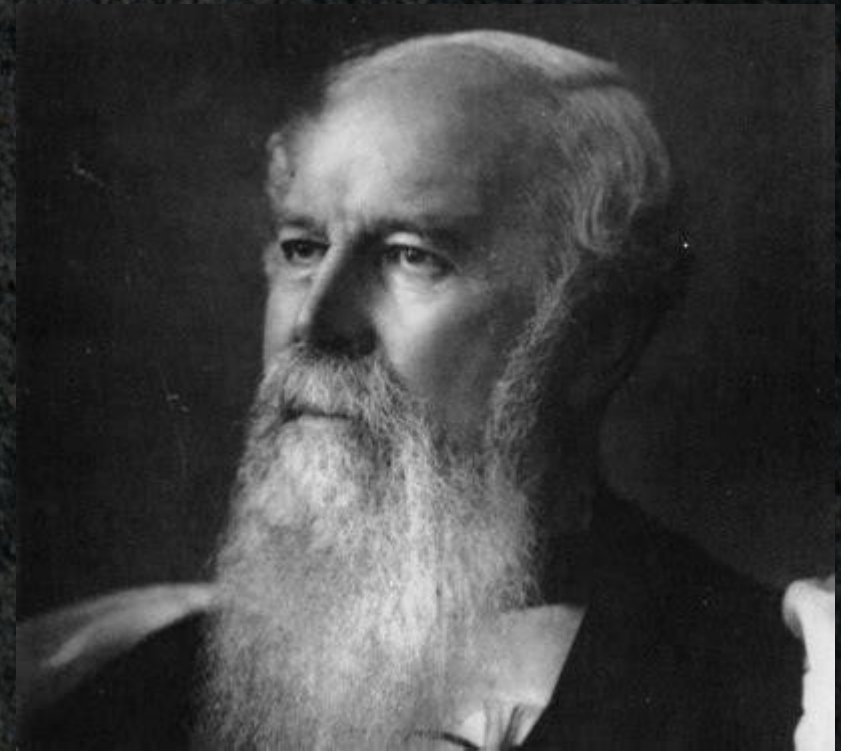


J.C Ryle

...Thousands at the last day will
testify, with David and the
nobleman before us,
“It is good for me that I have
been afflicted” (Psalm. 119:71).

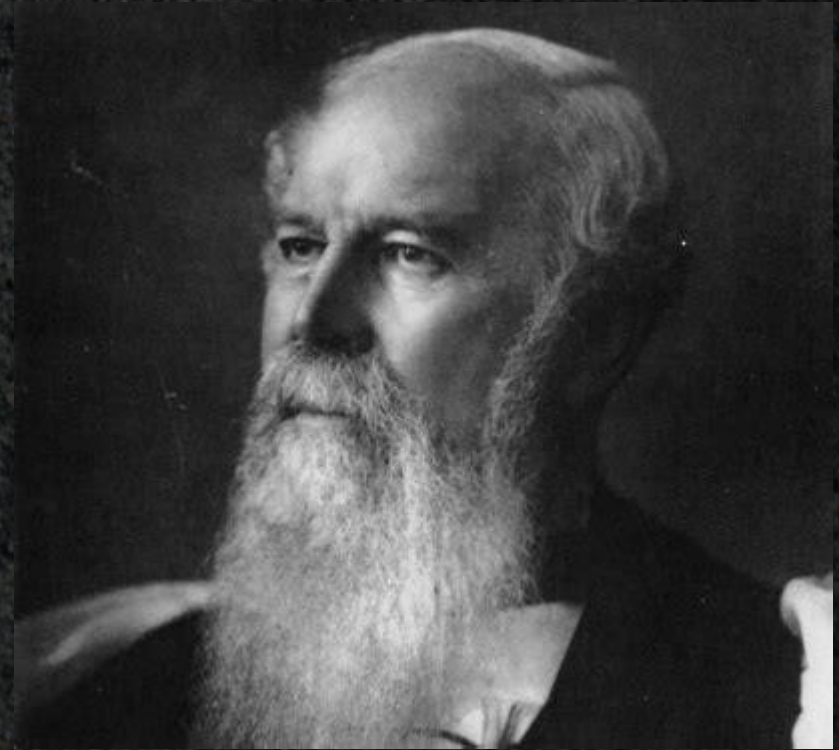
Let us beware of murmuring in
the time of trouble.

Let us settle it firmly in our
minds, that there is a meaning,
a “needs be”,
and a message from God in
every sorrow that falls upon us...



J.C Ryle

...There are no lessons so useful
as those learned in the school of
affliction. There is no
commentary that opens up the
Bible so much as sickness
and sorrow.”



J.C Ryle

1. Increasing Faith (vs. 3a)
2. Abounding Love (vs. 3b)
3. Commendable Testimony (vs. 4)
4. Kingdom Attitude (vs. 5)

Some Products of Persecution

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the Gospel.

Philippians 1:27

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