



Young Adults at PCPC

@pcpcya

IN ANY AND EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE  
a study of Philippians

**Lesson 2: In that I rejoice!**

# **In Any and Every Circumstance?**

## **Review from last week!**

Confined to a place

Unable to work  
in the same way

Missing friends

**Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.**

**I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. *In any and every circumstance*, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.**

**I can do all things through Him who gives me strength.**

**Philippians 4:11-13**

## In Any and Every Circumstance?

Written from prison, Philippians has been called “The Epistle of Joy”.

The word “joy” appears 5 times in the ESV.  
(1:4, 1:25, 2:2, 2:29, 4:1)

The word “rejoice” appears 9 times in the ESV.  
(1:18, 1:18, 2:17, 2:18, 2:28, 3:1, 4:4, 4:4, 4:10)

*How could we be joyful in  
any and every circumstance?*

**Rejoice always,  
pray without ceasing,  
give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is the will of God  
in Christ Jesus for you.**

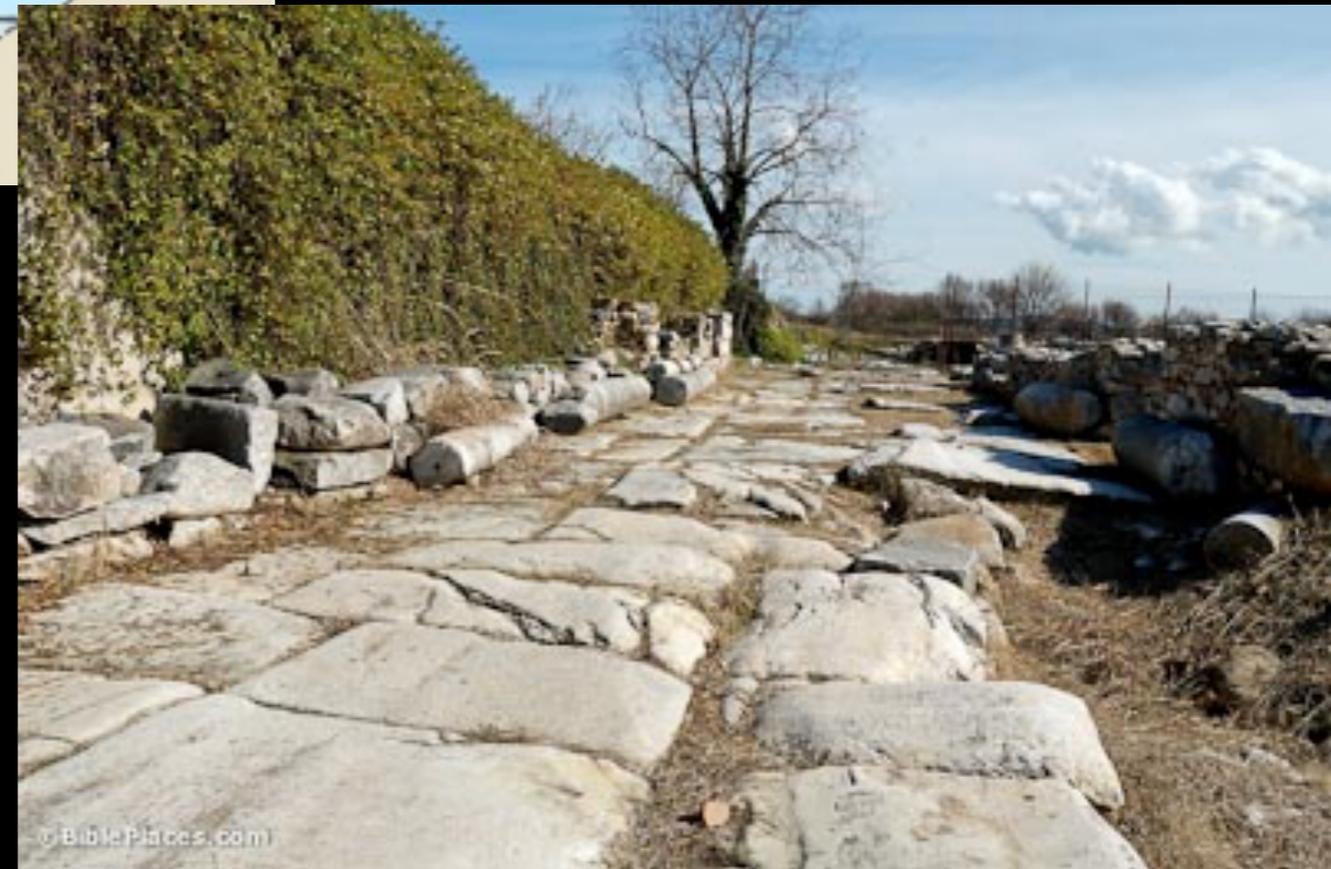
**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**



**Acts 16**  
**Paul in Philippi**  
**(AD 49)**

**Philippians**  
**Paul in prison in Rome**  
**(AD 62)**

**The Via Egnatia**  
 Covers over 500 miles  
 Constructed 2nd Century BC  
 Used by Paul in 1st Century AD



# Philippians 1:12-18

**12 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel,**

**13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.**

# Philippians 1:12-18

**14 And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.**

**15 Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will.**

**16 The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.**

**17 The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment.**

# Philippians 1:12-18

**18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice,**

# Persecution advances the Gospel (1:12-13)

**12 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel,**

**13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.**

# Persecution requires obedience (1:12-13)

- To obey God and resist the devil - James 4:7
- To obey God and look different than the world - Romans 12:1-2
- To obey God and not our fleshly passions - 1 Peter 1:14-15

# Persecution grows the church (1:14-17)

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**“As a pastor (Christian), my disobedience is part of the Gospel mission. The great mission of Christ requires our great resistance to the world. The purpose of resisting is not to change the world, but to witness another world.”**

**— Wang Li**



Pastor Wang Yi and his wife Jiang Rong were both taken away at different times during the recent raid on Early Rain Covenant Church.

Because the mission of the church is simply to become a church and not to be part of any secular system. From a negative perspective, the church must separate itself from the world and avoid letting itself be institutionalized by the world. From a positive perspective, all actions of the church are efforts to prove to the world the true existence of another world. The Bible teaches us that we can only obey God and not obey people in matters concerning the gospel and human conscience. Therefore, **the disobedience of faith and the patience of the body are the ways we witness another eternal world and another glory king.**

This is why I am not interested in changing any political and legal system in China, and I am not even interested in when the policy of the Chinese Communist regime persecution of the church will change. No matter whether I live under any regime now or in the future, as long as the secular government continues to persecute the church and harm the human conscience that belongs to God alone, I will continue to resist the faith. Because **all the missions that God has given me are through all my actions so that more Chinese understand that the hope of mankind and society lies only in the redemption of Christ, in the supernatural grace of God.**

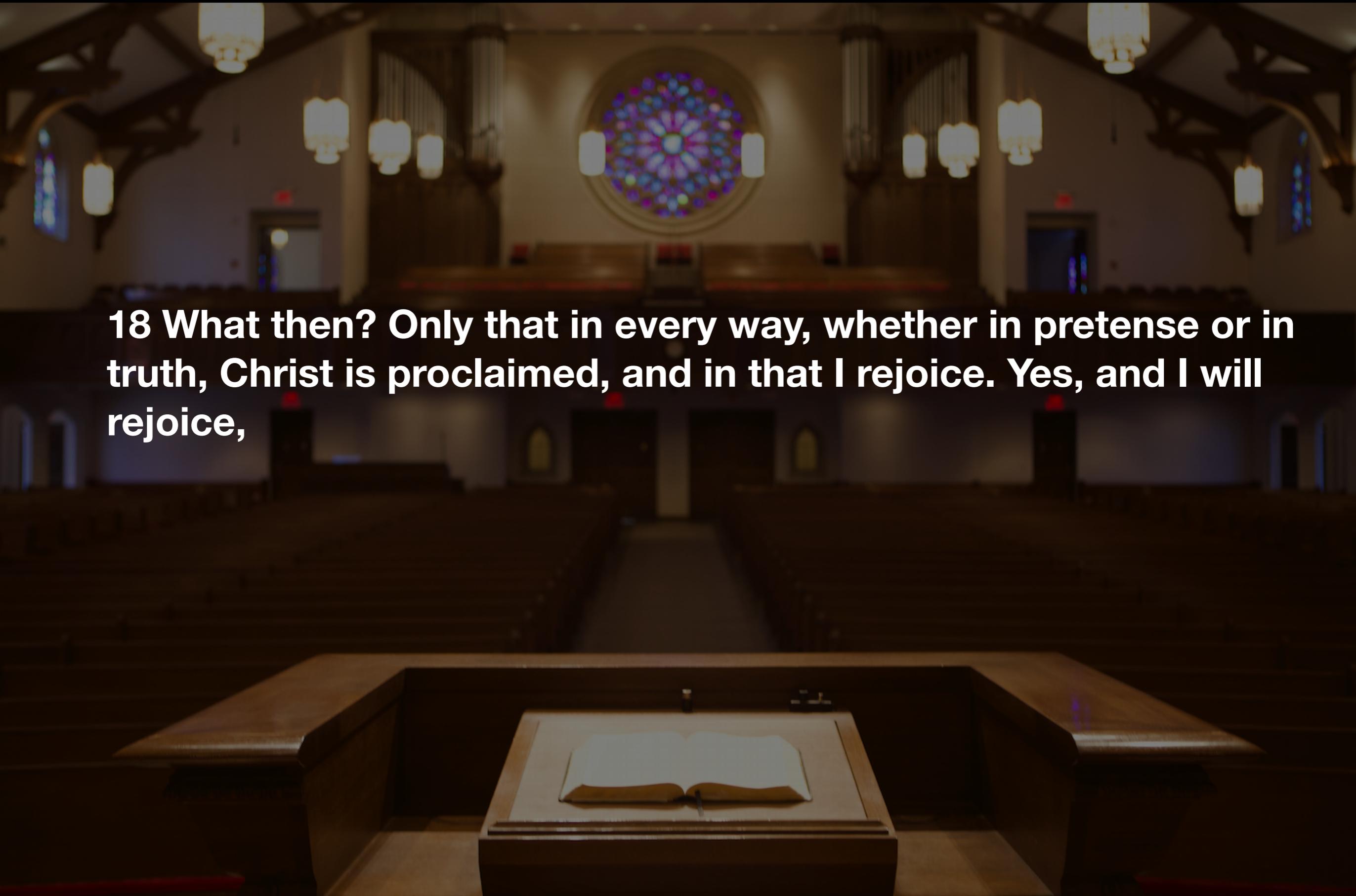
If God decides to persecute the church by the Chinese Communist regime, to help more Chinese despair, lead them to experience the disillusionment and desert of faith, and thus to know Jesus and to constantly cultivate and build his own church. I am very happy to obey God's arrangement, because his arrangement is always loving and beautiful.

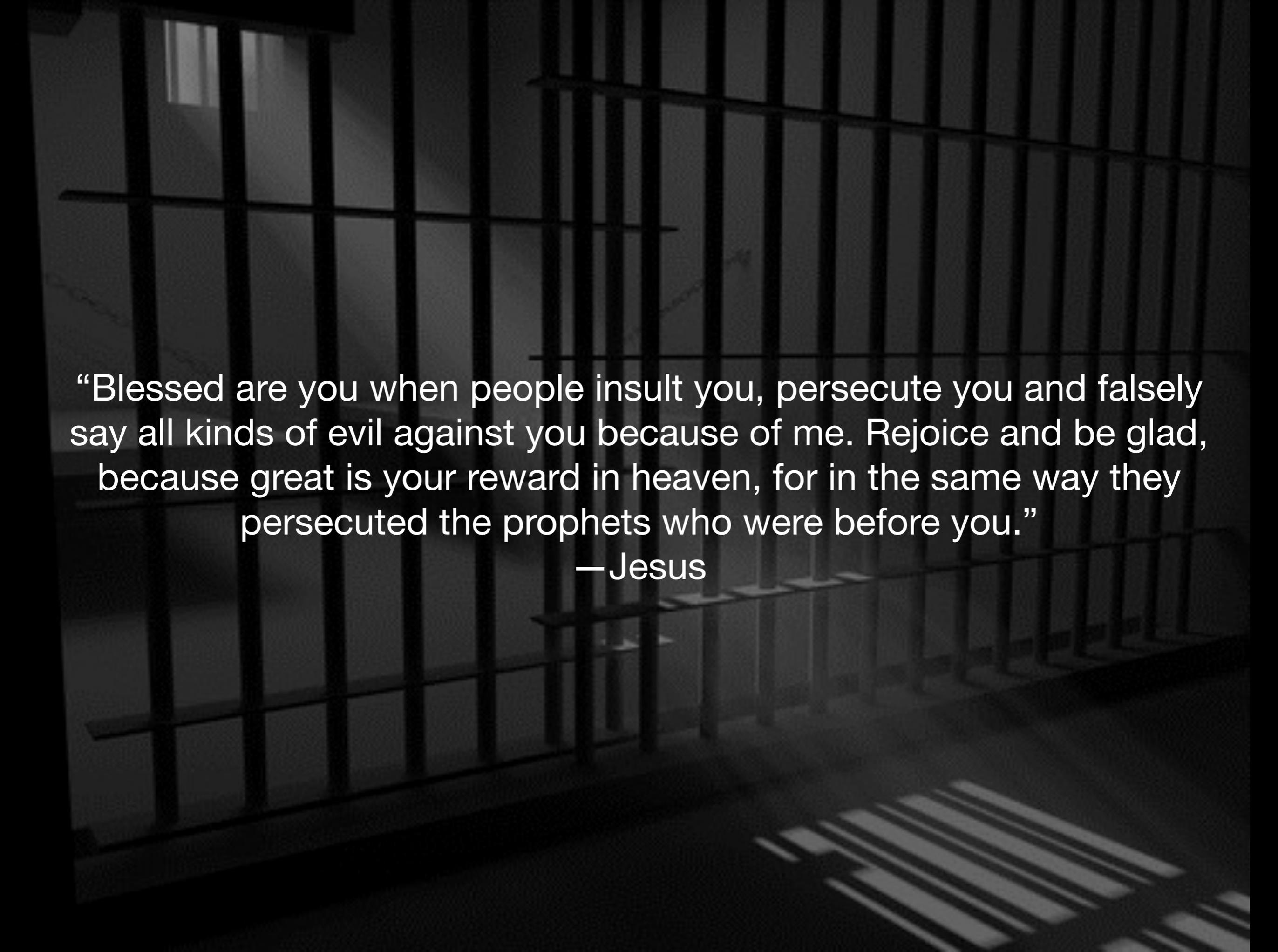
# Obedience to another world

- **How do we take a sabbath and rest?**
- **What does dignity of ALL life mean?**
- **How do we care for the poor?**
- **What does the Bible say about sexual identity?**
- **How do we stand against racial injustice?**
- **Why are we generous with our time, gifts and money?**

## In that I rejoice (1:18)

**18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice,**



A dark, moody photograph of a prison cell. The scene is dominated by vertical and horizontal metal bars that create a grid pattern. In the upper left, a window is visible, showing a glimpse of the outside world. The lighting is low, casting long, dark shadows and creating a somber atmosphere. The floor is dark and appears to be made of concrete or stone.

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

—Jesus

- 1. What stands out to you in Philippians 1:12-18?**
- 2. Give some examples of how our obedience can lead to persecution or insults?**
- 3. Is there a correlation between persecution and Christian growth/maturity?**
- 4. Discuss the juxtaposition of joy and suffering for Christians.**
- 5. For the joy set before him...What does this verse mean? How does this relate to your journey with Jesus?**



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