

THE COMMON CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE

Revelation 1:9

Introduction:

- A. There are preachers who preach that if a believer has enough f_____ they will be healthy, wealthy, and prosperous.
1. This is a f_____ gospel.
 2. If it were biblical, then the apostles would have been the ones with the l_____ faith since their lives were filled with turmoil.
 3. What would a persecuted Christian say to such preachers?
- B. The common Christian experienced is outlined for us in Rev 1:9. There are three:

We all share in t_____

- A. John calls himself a fellow partaker or participant in tribulation (suffering or hardship) with His readers.
1. Note that the word tribulation, suffering, hardship is s_____ (one might expect the plural because of Acts 14:22) – John sees the Christian life as one big tribulation.
 2. The Greek word literally means p_____ and pictures a person being squeezed on both sides.
 3. The tribulation, suffering, or hardship is said to be _____ Jesus, which means in connection with Jesus.
 - a. John was exiled on an island because of the w_____ of God – it was connected with Jesus.
 - b. Jesus prepared His followers preaching that there would be tribulation (same Greek word) for those who are connected with Him.
 - 1) Matt 13:21 – Jesus stated in the parable of the sower: *w_____ tribulation arises because of the word.*
 - 2) Matt 24:9 – Jesus told His apostles: *they will deliver you to tribulation and k_____ you.*
 - 3) Jn 16:33 – Jesus stated that as long as we are in the w_____, *we will have tribulation.*
 - 4) His apostles that they would be delivered up to tribulation (same Greek word as in Rev 1:9)

B. What are some bad things that have happened to you solely because of your connection with Christ?

1. R _____
2. D _____
3. F _____
4. T _____

C. When experiencing tribulation, remember Jesus is the A _____ (Rev 1:8) and has overcome the w _____ (Jn 16:33).

We all share in the k _____

A. There are only two main kingdoms:

1. The kingdom of G _____ (Rom 13:7; 14:17; Col 1:13)
2. The kingdom of S _____ (Matt 12:26; Col 1:13).

B. Contrast the kingdoms promote

<u>Christ's kingdom</u>	<u>Satan's kingdom</u>
L _____	D _____ (Jn 5:24)
F _____	J _____ (Jn 3:18)
Joy and p _____	Emptiness (Rom 14:17)
T _____	Deception (Jn 14:6; 8:44)

We all will p _____

A. Tribulation brings about perseverance, which literally means *to remain under* (Rom 5:3).

B. Those "Christians" who throw away Christianity because the trouble that comes with it is not worth it, were not t _____ believers.

- a. 2 Thess 2:2 prophesies of a great a _____ (which literally means *a standing* aside) – a great number of Christian sympathizers will reject Christ).
- b. Days are coming when the protections and freedoms that are guaranteed under the U.S. constitution for every citizen, will be taken away from Christians.

C. The tribulation in Christ, no matter how horrible, is insignificant when compared to the g _____ to come (Rom 8:18). The Lord will give us perseverance.