

ONLY THE OPPRESSED SEEK GOD

Only the persons who are oppressed by their own personal sin have the realization of their need for Jesus, the Savior from sin. The Holy Spirit convicts all people of sin, their personal need for righteousness, and of judgment to come for their sin. Sin is an oppressor.

Simon Peter and his brother Andrew were oppressed by the Roman government, Judaism, and their own personal sin. They were seeking the Messiah. They heard about John the Baptist. They went to where he was preaching and they listened to his messages of repentance. John introduced them to Jesus and they followed Jesus even to the point of bringing Jesus to their home in Capernaum.

Today, we are seeking the Second Coming of the Messiah. Like Simon Peter, we are oppressed by our sin nature and the result of sin's consequences throughout the world. We who have been born again are also oppressed by those around us who make light of our convictions. Oppressed by words and deeds, we are driven into God's Word to find truth and develop our personal relationship with God in Christ. We don't own the truth by just accepting what others have always said (the traditions of men). We must compare Scripture with Scripture to be sure we are finding the truth aided by the Spirit of God.

Believers are oppressed on many avenues. Proclaiming the true Jesus of Scripture causes the believer to be treated with a lack of respect, even to the loss of opportunities in secular life, and even to persecution by friends, family, and society.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you." Matthew 5:10-12

"The world would love you as one of its own if you were of the world. I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world will hate you." John 15:19

Oppression helps bring the sinner to repentance and regeneration, and oppression drives the believer to seek for God and truth throughout life. Oppression upon the believer drives the believer into deeper discipleship and deeper obedience to Christ.

Believers are labored in their effort to combat the oppression of sin. Repentance of sins and the suffering of obedience, which incorporates righteous actions into the believer's life, is the essence of

our recovery within our relationship with God. The labor of the believer should be in perfect peace without anxiety, worry, or fear. Jesus gives peace and rest in the midst of labor.

Matthew 11:28-30 Isaiah 26:3

The burden of sin is much more heavy than the yoke of Christ.