

**Notes:** "Have not almost all the governments in the world always been in the wrong on religious subjects?"- **Macaulay**

"Do not the Scriptures clearly show that they who persecute are generally in the wrong, and they who suffer persecution in the right, that the majority has always been on the side of falsehood, and the minority only on the side of truth?"- **Luther**.

"Religion was intended to bring peace on earth and good will towards men, and whatever tends to hatred and persecution, however correct in the letter, must be utterly wrong in the spirit." - **Henry Varnum**.

**God never forces the will or the conscience;** but, in order to bring men under sin, Satan resorts to force. To accomplish his purpose, he works through religious and secular rulers, influencing them to enact and enforce human laws in defiance of the law of God.

### 9. Under what terrible deception did Christ say men would persecute His followers?

"These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that *whosoever* \_\_\_\_\_ *you will* \_\_\_\_\_ *that he doeth God* \_\_\_\_\_." **John 16:1-2**

### 10. Who is the original murderer?

"Ye are of your father *the devil*, and the lusts of your father ye will do. *He was a* \_\_\_\_\_ *from the beginning*, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." **John 8:44**

### 11. When James and John wished to call down fire from heaven to consume the Samaritans who did not receive Christ, what did Christ say to them?

"He turned, and rebuked them, and said, *Ye know not what* \_\_\_\_\_ *of* \_\_\_\_\_ *ye are of. For the* \_\_\_\_\_ *of man is not* \_\_\_\_\_ *to* \_\_\_\_\_ *men's* \_\_\_\_\_, *but to* \_\_\_\_\_ *them.*" **Luke 9: 55-56**



## The Foundation Bible Lessons

### PART 10:

## Christian Liberty

**Topic: Who Persecute and Why**

**Lesson: 108**

**Part A**

**Volume: 10**



### MISSION STATEMENT

Foundation Progressive Sabbath Advent Ministries (FPSAM), Inc. exists to build upon the four **PILLARS** (*Mental, Physical, Spiritual and Social*) that **GUIDED** Jesus' life.

#### VISION

All Foundation Progressive Sabbath Advent Ministries (FPSAM), Inc. members will use the four pillars to establish and build their personal life and that of others.

#### SLOGAN

"Don't Accommodate Eliminate"

#### MOTTO

"Building on FOUR"

#### TEXT

"And Jesus increased in wisdom (Mental) and stature (Physical & Spiritual), and in favor with God (Spiritual) and man (Social)." **Luke 2:52**

#### WEBSITE

[www.fpsam.org](http://www.fpsam.org)

**1. Because Jesus had not kept the Sabbath according to their ideas, what did the Jews do?**

"Therefore did the Jews \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus, and sought to \_\_\_\_\_ Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath day." **John 5:16**

**2. What kind of fast is most acceptable to God?**

"Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to \_\_\_\_\_ the bands of \_\_\_\_\_, to undo the \_\_\_\_\_ burdens, and to let the \_\_\_\_\_ go free, and that ye \_\_\_\_\_ every \_\_\_\_\_?" **Isaiah 58:6**

**Note:** This is what Jesus did. He, the Author and Lord of the Sabbath, in addition to attending and taking part in religious services (**Luke 4:16**), went about doing good, healing the sick, relieving the oppressed, and restoring the impotent, lame, and blind, on the Sabbath day. But this, while in perfect accord with the law of God, the great law of love, was contrary to the traditions and perverted ideas of the Jews respecting the Sabbath. Hence they persecuted Him, and sought to slay Him.

**3. Why did Cain kill Abel?**

"For this is the message that ye have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? *Because his own \_\_\_\_\_ were \_\_\_\_\_, and his brother's \_\_\_\_\_.*" **1 John 3:11-12**

**Note:** The following comment upon this passage by M. de Chesnais, a Catholic priest of New Zealand, is well put: "If you would read the Word of God, you would find that from the beginning all good people were persecuted because they were good. Abel was slain by his brother because he was good, and Cain could not endure the sight of him."- **Kaikoura (New Zealand) Star, April 10, 1884.**

**4. Commenting upon the treatment of Isaac, the son of Sarah, by Ishmael, the son of the bondwoman, what principle does the apostle Paul lay down?**

"But as then, *he that was born after the \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ him that was born after the \_\_\_\_\_,* even so it is now." **Galatians 4:29**

**5. What other instances of persecution mentioned in the Bible, demonstrate the correctness of this principle?**

**a.** Esau, who sold his birthright, persecuted Jacob, who vowed his loyalty to God. **Genesis 25:29-34; Genesis 27:41; Genesis 32:6.**

**b.** The wayward and envious sons of Jacob persecuted Joseph, who feared God. **Genesis 37; Acts 7:9**

**c.** The idolatrous Egyptians persecuted the Hebrews, who worshiped the true God. **Exodus 1 and Exodus 5**

**d.** The Hebrew who did his neighbor wrong thrust Moses, as mediator, aside. **Exodus 2:13-14; Acts 7:26-27**

**e.** Saul, who disobeyed God, persecuted David, who feared God. **1 Samuel 15, 19, 24.**

**f.** Israel, in their apostasy, persecuted Elijah and Jeremiah, who were prophets of God. **1 Kings 19:9,10; Jeremiah 36:20-23; Jeremiah 38:1-6.**

**g.** Nebuchadnezzar, while an idolater, persecuted the three Hebrew captives for refusing to worship idols. **Daniel 3**

**h.** The envious and idolatrous princes under Darius, persecuted Daniel for daring to pray to the God of heaven. **Daniel 6**

**i.** The murderers of Christ persecuted the apostles for preaching Christ. **Acts 4 and Acts 5**

**j.** Paul, before his conversion, persecuted the church of God. **Acts 8:1; Acts 9:1-2; Acts 22:4,5,20; Acts 26:9-11; Galatians 1:13; 1 Timothy 1:12-13**

**NOTE:** The history of all the religious persecutions since Bible times is but a repetition of this same story, the wicked persecute the righteous. And thus It will continue to be until the conflict between good and evil is ended.

**6. Who does Paul say shall suffer persecution?**

"Yea, and *all that will live \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ \_\_\_\_\_ shall suffer \_\_\_\_\_.*" **2 Timothy 3:12**

**7. What is essential to extensive religious persecution?**

Ecclesiastical control of the civil power, or a union of church and state.

**8. Since persecution is invariably wrong, and the persecutor is generally in the wrong on religious subjects, what must be true of persecuting governments?**

They likewise must be in the wrong.

**Notes:** "There are many who do not seem to be sensible that all violence in religion is irreligious, and that, whoever is wrong, the persecutor cannot be right."- **Thomas Clarke.**