

INCREASING PRESSURE ON ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY

2 THESSALONIANS 1:1-4, 11-12 (ESV)

I. In expectation of future persecution, we should correct our expectation of what _____ Christian _____ looks like.

A. In our current context, it's tempting and easy to prioritize _____ and _____ over glorifying God.

In the Thessalonians we see a different set of priorities:

B. Faithful Christian living in the face of persecution looks like...

1. _____ for other Christians suffering alongside you,

2. _____ your faith, rather than giving in to the pressure to give it up,

3. Doing the works that spread God's glory, particularly

Gospel _____.

C. Dedicating our lives to God's glory means being _____

to _____ happiness, comfort, or anything else in that pursuit.

II. Prioritizing God's glory reorients our _____ and _____ not only for ourselves, but also for the presently persecuted and the next generation.

A. Prayers for _____, comfort, protection, and _____ from persecution are not inappropriate.

B. The more essential desire, hope, dream, and prayer is that persecuted Christians—and the next generations of Christians—would be _____ to the _____ of God.

III. We should pray for ourselves, the next generation, and the persecuted Church in this way:

A. That they will be _____ until _____.

B. That they will live lives that looked like a person _____ by Jesus—lives that will be _____ on the day of judgment.

C. That above all else, they will _____.