TITLE: Resilient in Persecution

TEXT: “Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.” Romans 12:14

TARGET: The journey with Jesus is not for the faint of heart, because there will be people along the way that will seek to break it.

I. **of Persecution:** “those who **persecute** you” Romans 12:14a

   A. **References to Persecution:** (2 Timothy 3:12, John 15:1, John 17:1, 1 Peter 4:12-16)

   B. **Reasons for Persecution:**

      1. **Spiritual Battle:** There is a real enemy named Satan.
      2. **Biblical Worldview:** A belief in absolute truth defined by the Bible and the principles within.
      3. **Non-Conformity:** Choosing to call sin, sin.
      4. **Exclusivity of Jesus:** Claiming Jesus is the only way.

   C. **Recognizing the Who in Persecution:**

      1. **From within the Church:** 3 John 1:9-10
      2. **From outside the Church:** 2 Timothy 4:14

II. **through Persecution:** “bless” (2X) Romans 12:14b

   A. **Re-Clarification of Persecution:**

      1. **Defining your neighbor:** Matthew 5:43
      2. **Golden Rule Explained:** Matthew 7:12
         a) Leviticus 19:18: Omission of “as yourself”

   B. **Responding to Persecution:**

      1. **Pray for them:** (Luke 6:27)
      2. **Turn the Other Cheek:** (Matthew 5:39)
      3. **Give your Cloak:** (Matthew 5:40)
      4. **Go the Extra Mile:** (Matthew 5:41)

III. **in Persecution:** “and do not **curse** them” Romans 12:14c

   A. **Reflection towards Persecution:**

      1. **Stephen:** Acts 7:60
      2. **Jesus:** Luke 23:34
      3. **Paul & Silas:** Acts 16:24-25

   B. **Retribution of Persecution:**

      1. **Saul to Paul:** Acts 8-9
      2. **To the Nations:** Acts 1:8

**TAKEAWAY:** Choosing to Bless instead of Curse can only be done when being reminded that God did the same towards us! Romans 5:8: “While we were still sinners (enemies), Christ died for us.”
MISSION MOMENT

This past week, CBC partnered with the San Antonio Food Bank once again to deliver hope to many families in our community who are in need of support. CBC volunteers assisted in handing out 515 boxes of staple food items and 515 bags of produce in a drive-thru fashion on the CBC campus. What an awesome day of loving our city! Thank you to all who helped!

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01.25 | 6pm
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