



Big Idea: We pursue one mission because we serve one Master.

-- Tyrannical Intolerance

- Tyrannical intolerance against Christians is only a symptom of the real problem, which is the rejection of Jesus Christ Himself.
- v. 17 – The opposition is not to the apostles’ good deed, but to doing anything in the **NAME** of Jesus.
- Hatred of God’s Word is first and foremost about **REBELLION** against God.

-- The Seat of Authority

- Peter T. Forsythe – “The first duty of every soul is to find not its freedom but its Master.”
- So much of life boils down to this one question: *By what **AUTHORITY** do I think and act as I do?*
- *What do our actions say about the ultimate seat of authority in our lives?*

-- The Biblical Order of Authority

- 1.) As a general rule, God’s people are commanded by God to obey the governing authorities (Romans 13:1-8).
 - 2.) Whenever obedience to government demands **SIN** against God, we must obey God, not government (v. 19).
- It is a sin against God to be **SILENT** about the Gospel (v. 20).
 - We have divine authority to preach Christ (Matthew 28:18-20).
 - No human authority can ever supplant this command, for it comes with the eternally supreme authority of God.

The Gospel Response

1.) Expect **PERSECUTION**

- The believer who is determined to avoid persecution will never be an effective ambassador of Christ.
- 2 Timothy 3:12-13, John 15:18-20

2.) Make your testimony above **REPROCH**

- v. 16 – The council had nothing of substance with which to accuse the apostles.
- Never allow your attitude or actions become a stumbling block to the Gospel.
- 1 Peter 3:13-18, Romans 12:14-18.

3.) Walk in our Master's **MISSION**

- Luke 19:10, Mark 16:15-16
- Of all the cultural commands that we cannot honor, first among them is the pressure to keep quiet about Jesus.
- Because God is our Master, let us be all in for sharing Christ!