

"...if a man also strive for masteries, vet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully. The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits" (2 Tim. 2:5-6).

Not everyone that professes the name of Jesus is striving according to the Word of God. Not everyone that says "Lord, Lord" is partaker of the fruits of the Spirit. Jesus said to his disciples, and to us today:

"IF the world hate you, ye know that it hated me **<u>BEFORE</u>** it hated you. <u>IF</u> ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The <u>SERVANT</u> is not <u>GREATER</u> than his <u>LORD</u>. <u>IF</u> they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you" (John 15:18-20).

(Does the world hate you, or does it love you? Have you been chosen out of this world?)

No man has ever suffered to the degree that Jesus did. He had no home: "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head" (Matt. 8:20).

> He had no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men. A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. We hid as it were our faces from him. He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. He was oppressed and he was afflicted. Read Isaiah 53:1-12

Jesus said, "...If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me"

follow Jesus? If you follow the footsteps of Jesus,

also will deny us" (2 Tim. 2:12).

All believers suffer persecution because we are set apart from the world. And the world "...think it



"The SERVANT is not greater than his LORD"

strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you" (1 Peter 4:4):

> "Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake" (Luke 6:22).

> "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And <u>IF children</u>, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; IF SO BE that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:16-18).

Examine yourself in the mirror of God's Word and ask your own self: am I IN the faith. "Know ye not...that Jesus Christ is IN you" (2 Cor. 13:5)?

Do You Have Questions? Email us!

Amos 8:11 "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the We use the OLD King James Version: land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord:"