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## Worth It

*By Taylor Braswell on October 5, 2021*

### **TODAY'S READING:** John 16

The Bible is very clear about what following Christ will cost you. Christianity is not about health, wealth and prosperity. We can look back at 2,000 years of church history to see that Christians have always been persecuted. The short history of our country is abnormal when it comes to the persecution of followers of Christ. In verse 2, Jesus promises that His followers would be thrown out of the synagogues and even killed for following Him. For any Jewish followers of Christ at the time, being put out of the synagogues meant an end to life as they knew it. The synagogue represented a way of life and a connection to their community. Being put out of this community would mean an end to relationships with their friends and family.

In our culture today, following Christ is no longer celebrated. There is coming a time when following Christ will mean the loss of a job or an end to relationships. Many people will think they are doing good when they persecute Christians because we will be labeled ignorant and hateful. Brothers and sisters, why have believers been willing to pay the ultimate price for following our Savior? Followers of Christ know the persecution is worth it! We know that in persecution we are becoming more like Christ. Jesus ends chapter 15 by promising the world will hate us because it hated Him. In verse 16:1, Jesus says He is telling us these things to keep us from falling away. In persecution, it is tempting to believe the lie that this short life is more important than eternity. Christian, whatever happens to us in this life is not even comparable to what we have to look forward to. In whatever situation you find yourself today, hold fast to the God who loves you and gave Himself for you.

**PRAYER:** Father, thank You for giving me eternal life through Your son Jesus. Help me stand firm in the midst of persecution knowing that You are worth it.

### **TOMORROW'S READING:** John 17

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