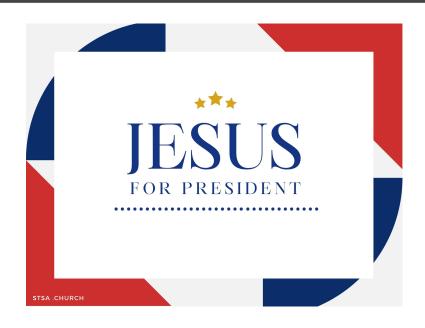


# The Well

an ordinary place where extraordinary things happen

STSA.CHURCH/THEWELL



"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." -Matthew 5:10-12

#### Are we actually persecuted today?

"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you." -John 15:18-20

"The lover of virtue then must incur hatred for the very things which excite our admiration – his rebuking vice and unveiling the vileness of the wicked by the contrast that his own manner of life presents. For when goodness is seen by its side, what is evil must appear unseemly... The man therefore who wishes only to be the servant of God, and who regards nothing as superior to piety towards Him, must necessarily be in conflict with those who love the world, whenever he persuades them to a state of mind out of harmony with the vain folly of the world." -St. John Chrysostom

"...that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world" -Philippians 2:15

How bright does my faith shine?

How clearly can others see Jesus in me?

"But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake,— what else is that but to say, they will hate me in you, they will persecute me in you; and your word, just because it is mine, they will not keep? For all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake: not for yours, but mine."

-St. Augustine

"All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus WILL suffer persecution."

-2 Timothy 3:12

## When I am hated for Christ's sake, I will rejoice and be exceedingly glad because great is my reward in heaven.

"If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you." -1 Peter 4:14

"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal." -2 Corinthians 4:17-18

"I'd rather temporarily lose with a cause that will ultimately succeed, than temporarily succeed with a cause that will ultimately lose." Woodrow Wilson

## **STSAMINISTRIES**

### BRING AN ANCIENT FAITH TO YOUR MODERN WORLD

STSA Church was established in April 2012 with a mission to "bring an ancient faith to a modern world." We attempt to do that by presenting the depth and richness of our Orthodox Christian faith, in a way that's relevant and applicable to life in the 21st century.

STSA MINISTRIES IS A
COMMUNITY OF RESOURCES
INSPIRATION, AND LEARNING
DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE
AND EQUIP ORTHODOX
CHURCH LEADERS IN THEIR
LOCAL COMMUNITIES.



The only materials you'll find on our site, <u>stsaministries.org</u>, are ones that we personally use at STSA Church and have been using for years. Our staff and volunteers have spent years researching, testing, and refining the content and we pray that they'll be as helpful to you as they have been to us. Our goal is to continuously develop new materials. Subscribe at <u>stsaministries.org</u> to receive monthly email updates as additional resources are developed and released.

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