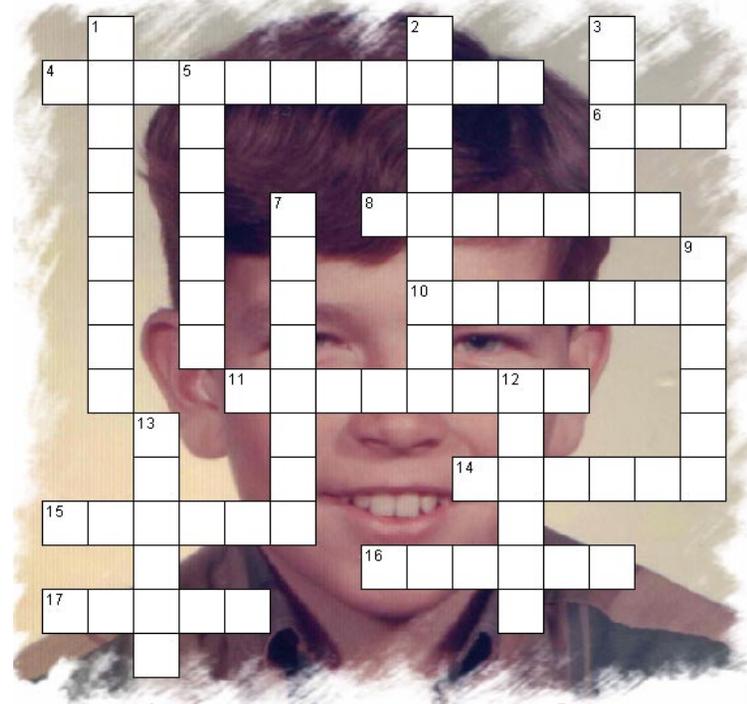


# Crossword Puzzle

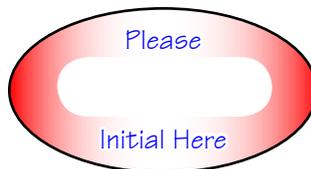


Across

Down

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>4. A History of _____</p> <p>6. It has been nearly ____ thousand years since the Lord Jesus sent...</p> <p>8. A _____ of Persecution</p> <p>10. ...his testimony before the Jewish _____ and of how the Jewish...</p> <p>11. It has been nearly two _____ years...</p> <p>14. All of these _____ ones were strengthened by the Lord...</p> <p>15. ...the spread of the _____...</p> <p>16. John was not killed... but he was _____, or sent away...</p> <p>17. ...two thousand years since the Lord _____ sent the disciples out...</p> | <p>1. John... was sent there because of the _____ of Jesus.</p> <p>2. ...the Lord Jesus sent the _____...</p> <p>3. _____ and Paul were both killed...</p> <p>5. He was stoned to death by the Jews.</p> <p>7. ..._____, even unto death.</p> <p>9. John was sent away to an _____.</p> <p>12. It has been _____ two thousand years...</p> <p>13. ...stirred up many people to oppose and _____ the gospel.</p> |
|--|---|

*Parent's Initials:*



## God's Calling in the New Testament

- Lesson Twenty-Three -

### *The Testimony of God's Called Ones – Faithful Unto Death*

#### I. Overview.

**T**he love of Christ constrains His disciples to live their lives for Him at any cost – even if it costs them their lives. When Jesus gave His last charge to His disciples, He told them “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to all the creation.” There were times that His disciples, His called ones, would be hated and persecuted because of the gospel.

Satan opposes the gospel because the gospel results in the building up of the church. He knows that when the church is built, his days are at an end. Satan opposed the disciples who preached the gospel and raised up resistance against them.



Many called ones have given up their lives for the Lord.

Sometimes the resistance and opposition are so strong that some of the disciples were killed because of the gospel. But due to their great love for the Lord Jesus and the church, they gave their lives without fear.

#### II. Memory Verse.

**“Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.”**

(Rev. 2:10b)

### III. Lesson.

It has been nearly two thousand years since the Lord Jesus sent the disciples out to preach the gospel. The name of Jesus is known throughout the earth. The stories of the Lord Jesus' life, the four gospels, are the most translated books ever – into over one thousand languages. But the fact that the knowledge of Jesus is widespread does not mean that it has been easy for the gospel to spread. Nor does it mean that our work in the gospel will always be easy.

#### A History of Persecution

In some ways the history of the spread of the gospel has been a history of persecution. Satan has stirred many people up to oppose and resist the gospel. Many of the Lord's called ones have faced opposition and difficulties. Some have even lost their lives for the sake of the gospel.

The Bible tells us what happened to some of the Lord's disciples and history tells us about others. John the Baptist was hated because of his honest testimony and was beheaded by the evil king Herod. Stephen was a strong witness for the Lord. Acts chapter seven tells the story of his testimony before the Jewish leaders and of how the Jewish leaders rejected his words and stoned him to death.



Many of the apostles were opposed but remained faithful unto death.

#### John and James

John and James were brothers and were among the Lord's disciples when He was on the earth. James was the first of the apostles to be killed because of the gospel. King Herod had James killed because of his strong testi-

mony for the Lord. While James was killed as a young man, John lived to be very old. John was not killed because of his faith or his testimony, but he was exiled, or sent away, to an island as an old man. John tells us that he was sent there because of the testimony of Jesus. Peter and Paul were both killed because of their dedication to the Lord Jesus.

Others in history have also given up their lives because of their service to the Lord. Even Watchman Nee spent all of his remaining years and died in prison because of His faithfulness to the Lord. All of these called ones were strengthened by the Lord and upheld a good testimony that they were faithful, even unto death. Paul said, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

### --- Questions for Discussion ---

1. Why does Satan hate and oppose the gospel?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the most translated book of all time and how many languages has it been translated into?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How was Stephen killed?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What happened to John because of his testimony?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_