"For the Joy Set Before Us" – Prepared for Persecution

I. Introduction (Matthew 5:7-12; Hebrews 12:2)

II. Persecution is to be expected (Matthew 5:10-12; Hebrews 11:35-38; John 15:18-20; 2 Timothy 3:12; Matthew 24:7-10

III. Reasons for persecution

   A. The life you live (Matthew 5:10; 2 Timothy 3:12; John 3:19-20; Matthew 5:14-15; Matthew 13:30)

   B. The Lord you love (Matthew 5:11; John 15:21)

IV. Persecution pales compared to the prize (Matthew 5:12; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18)

V. Conclusion (Philippians 1:29)