

As far as we know, the Lord Jesus Christ possessed no great material wealth or influence within the religious establishment during His life. We know also He never once charged money for His service, only to the contrary.

The same can be said for His Twelve Apostles and the Early Church saints. The New Testament clearly shows they proclaimed their faith in the most inoffensive and generous manner possible. Yet in spite of this, they produced nothing but contempt and strong opposition from both the religious and secular powers of their day.

However, their persistence and zeal in the face of such hostility cannot entirely account for the threat they posed to these worldly powers over the course of history.

The more important reason is given in the story of the paralytic. In Matthew's account, we read, "For which is easier to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and walk?'"

Therefore, contrary to what many professing Christians still preach and practice today, persecution has always been the Lord's method to spread the Gospel, and "signs and wonders" are its primary cause. The Word of God nowhere permits disregard for one commandment in order to advance another; accursed objects must not come into your home!