

# I Hate to Burst Your Bubble

(Hebrews 12:4)

- Introduction:
1. We've probably all had our "bubbles burst" when we thought we had some really tough times, only to learn they were minor when compared to the tough times of others.
  2. For the past year, I have heard people talk about how hard 2020 has been, and while I don't mean to minimize the hardship the year held, it pales in comparison to our early brothers and sisters in Christ.

## I. 2020 Was Not A Bad Year

- A. But we had a pandemic.
- B. We had to worship via computers.
- C. Restaurants were closed.
- D. Sports were all but shut down.
- E. Parents had to educate their own children part of the time.
- F. Shelves weren't always stocked as we wished.

## II. Consider the Success of the Early Church

- A. Acts 2:41
- B. Acts 5:14
- C. Acts 6:7
- D. Acts 9:31
- E. Acts 12:24
- F. Acts 16:5
- G. Acts 19:20

## III. Gaining Perspective

- A. They were persecuted by pagans & Jews.
- B. They had an emperor who claimed to be God.
- C. No planes, trains, automobiles.
- D. No internet, radio, television.

## IV. How We Can Abound in the Work of the Lord Today

- A. Teach the gospel (Romans 1:15-16)
- B. Labor in prayer (Col. 4:12; Rom. 15:30)
- C. Do good works (Acts 10:38; Rom. 2:4)

- Conclusion:
1. Friends, opportunities abound.
  2. The only thing that is stopping us from having a successful year is ourselves.