

Lessons From The Persecuted Church

HEBREWS 12:1-3

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Every Month

322 Christians are killed for their faith in Jesus.
214 churches are destroyed.
1,000 Christians suffer violence.

An estimated 200 million Christians suffer persecution and discrimination worldwide.

Introduction: Persecution, Focused Prayer and Joy

Hebrews 12:1-3, NASB – ¹ Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Three Lessons From The Persecuted Church

1. Persecution cannot be _____.

Luke 21:17, NASB – "... and you will be hated by all on account of My name."

- Only the return of Jesus will truly end persecution.
- We can't afford the luxury of inattentiveness.
- Denial is not an acceptable strategy!

2. People are not our _____.

Ephesian 6:12, NASB - "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."

- People can bring fear and hate, but God can help us overcome.

3. Prayer is the _____ thing you can do.

Luke 10:2, NASB – And He [Jesus] was saying to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

- A prayer-less Christian is a contradiction in terms.

Conclusion

"Silence in the face of evil is itself, evil. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is anything too difficult for Me?"

- Jeremiah 32:27

