

Facing Persecution

Sunday Morning, November 4, 2012

Thesis:

Support Those Who Keep a Godly Perspective While Under Persecution for Christ

Introduction:

Voice of the Martyrs: Video of Nigerian Persecution

[There Are Many Forms of Persecution \(Read List\)](#)

(John 15:20)

Remember the word I spoke to you: 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will also keep yours.

I. Why is the Church Persecuted?

(I Peter 5:8)

Be serious! Be alert!
Your adversary the Devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.

[The Enemy Prowls...Seeks to Devour](#)

(James 1: 1-5)

1 James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ:
To the 12 tribes in the Dispersion. Greetings.
2 Consider it a great joy, my brothers, whenever you experience various trials,
3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.
4 But endurance must do its complete work, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.
5 Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives to all generously and without criticizing, and it will be given to him.

[Testing Faith...Develops Faith](#)

(II Timothy 3:12)

In fact, all those who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

[Persecuted for Standing for God](#)

II. Biblical Example of Persecution

Example 1:

[The Lion's Den](#)

[Daniel 6](#)

Example 2:

(Acts 7: 57-60)

57 Then they screamed at the top of their voices, covered their ears, and together rushed against him.
58 They threw him out of the city and began to stone him. And the witnesses laid their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59 They were stoning Stephen as he called out: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!"

60 Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin!" And saying this, he fell asleep.

[Stephen Martyred](#)

III. A Godly Perspective of Persecution

(II Corinthians 4: 7-18)

7 Now we have this treasure in clay jars, so that this extraordinary power may be from God and not from us.

8 We are pressured in every way but not crushed; we are perplexed but not in despair;

9 we are persecuted but not abandoned; we are struck down but not destroyed.

10 We always carry the death of Jesus in our body, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

11 For we who live are always given over to death because of Jesus, so that Jesus' life may also be revealed in our mortal flesh. *(passage continue on next page)*

12 So death works in us, but life in you.

13 And since we have the same spirit of faith in keeping with what is written, I believed, therefore I spoke, we also believe, and therefore speak.

14 We know that the One who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and present us with you.

15 Indeed, everything is for your benefit, so that grace, extended through more and more people, may cause thanksgiving to increase to God's glory.

16 Therefore we do not give up. Even though our outer person is being destroyed, our inner person is being renewed day by day.

17 For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory.

18 So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Conclusion:

[Those Who Stand For Christ Will Face Persecution](#)

[Therefore, Remember...](#)

(Hebrews 13:3)

Remember the prisoners, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily.

[Remember to:](#)

[Pray](#)

[Defend](#)

[Support](#)

[The Persecuted](#)

[Have You Faced Persecution?](#)