

Are You Prepared for Persecution?

“...the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...full of grace and truth.” – John 1:14

Though Christ epitomized grace and truth, He encountered the disdain and rejection of most people. He tells us, “If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you” (John 15:18).

He continues, “If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well. But they have done this to fulfill the word that is written in their Law, ‘They hated Me without a cause.’ – John 15:24-25

Before encountering his own martyrdom, the Apostle Paul stated a guarantee of discipleship – persecution. “Indeed, all who want to live in a godly way in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (2 Timothy 3:12).

Holy Fortitude by Isaac Watts

Am I a soldier of the cross, a follower of the Lamb, and shall I fear to
own His cause, or blush to speak His Name?
Must I be carried to the skies on flowery beds of ease, while others
fought to win the prize, and sailed through bloody seas?

Are there no foes for me to face? Must I not stem the flood? Is this
vile world a friend to grace, to help me on to God?
Sure, I must fight, I would reign; increase my courage, Lord! I'll bear
the toil, endure the pain, supported by Thy Word.

The saints in all this glorious war shall conquer, though they die; they
see the triumph from afar by faith's discerning eye.
When that illustrious day shall rise, and all Thine armies shine in
robes of victory through the skies, the glory shall be Thine.

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Today's Message: Who's Keeping Your Heart?

Proverbs 4:23

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Pastor Kent Hinkel

“For our momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” – 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

“In the world's eyes, the life of the Apostle Paul was an incredible failure. At the height of a career that would reach much higher, he left it all for a life of hardship, suffering and persecution, with eventual martyrdom. Paul recognized that the world only sees the outward, not the unseen eternal things.” (Adapted from David Guzik, Eternal Word)

Listening with Your Heart

“Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.” – Proverbs 4:23