

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:10-12; 10:16-22

SERMON: Remember Your Persecuted Brethren

6 November 2016

INTRODUCTION: International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (also Monthly Day of Prayer)

I. A QUICK SURVEY OF PERSECUTION IN THE BIBLE (see Heb.11:32-38)

A. SEED OF THE WOMAN/SEED OF THE SERPENT (Gen.3:15; see Lk.4:1f,etc. Rev.12:1f; 20:10)

B. ABEL/CAIN (Gen.4:8; see 1Jn.3:12; Jud.1:11)

C. JOSEPH/BROTHERS (Gen.37:3f; 50:20)

D. ISRAEL/EGYPT (Ex.1:8,etc.; see Philistia, Amalek; Ammon, Moab; Edom, Assyria, Babylon, (Persia), Greece, Rome)

E. ISAAC/ISHMAEL (Gal.4:29; see Gen.21:9)

F. DAVID/SAUL (1Sam.18:9,etc.; see Ps.18:1f; 52:1; 54:1; 57:1; 59:1)

G. MORDECAI/HAMAN (Est.3:5,10,etc.)

H. JESUS/JEWS, ROMANS (Lk.11:53; Jn.11:53; Acts 2:22,23,36; 1Pt.2:21f)

I. CHRISTIANS/SAUL (Acts 7:58; 8:1f; 9:1f; see 22:3f; 26:9f; Phil.3:6; 1Tm.1:13; see Mt.5:44)

J. PAUL/JEWS, PAGANS (Acts 7-28; see 2Cor.11:23f; Gal.4:29; 6:17)

K. CHURCH/WORLD (Mt.24:9f; Jn.16:33; Rom.5:3; 8:35; 12:12; 1Th.1:6; Rev.1:9)

II. A VERY QUICK SURVEY OF PERSECUTION IN CHURCH HISTORY (see *Ecclesiastical History*, Eusebius; *Book of Martyrs*, Foxe; *A History of Christian Missions*, Neill; *Voice of the Martyrs* publications)

A. ROMAN EMPIRE (East & West; 64-300AD; e.g., Nero, Domitian, Trajan, Diocletian; off/on, local/global until Constantine)

B. CHRISTIAN EUROPE (500-1500; e.g., Catholic ↔ Protestant; both within each and vs. Jews, Anabaptists)

C. GLOBAL MISSIONS (1st through 21st centuries; indigenous religions/ideologies, their populace and governments)

III. REMEMBER YOUR PERSECUTED BRETHREN (see Heb.13:3; Mt.25:36)

A. BE PREPARED: PERSECUTION IS THE NORMAL CHRISTIAN LIFE (see Lk.9:23; Rom.6:3f; 8:17; Col.1:24; 1Pt.2:21f; see 1:6f; 2:11f,18f,3:13f; 4:12f; 5:6f)

B. APPOINTED MEANS: EMPLOY TO PREPARE YOURSELF (Acts 2:42 (c.3-28!); Dan.6:10; Ps.119:84,86; 157,161; see Gal.5:22f; Rom.5:3)

C. MARTYR: THE WITNESS OF SUFFERING (Col.1:24; Lk.6:27,35; 1Pt.2:21f; see 2Cor.5:21)

D. HOPE: GOD GIVES COMFORT AND EVEN JOY IN PERSECUTION (Mt.5:10f; Acts 7:55f; Rom.5:3f; 8:35; 12:12; 1Th.1:6; 1Pt.4:12f; Ps.42,43; see Eusebius, etc.)

E. PSALMS: VERY USEFUL FOR ENCOURAGEMENT IN PERSECUTION (e.g., David; Ps.18:1f; 52:1; 54:1; 57:1; 59:1; see 42,43; etc., etc., etc.; see Rom.15:4)

F. DUTY: BEAR THE BURDEN WITH THE PERSECUTED (Heb.13:3; Mt.25:35,36; Acts 12:5(Col.4:18,3); 24:27(Gal.2:10; 2Cor.8:1f; 9:5f); see Josh.10; note: *VOM, Samaritans Purse, World Relief*, etc.; see *WORLD, Christianity Today*, etc.)

Brethren, what shall we do? (see Acts 2:37f)