

The Persecuted Church

Various Text, Sunday, November 4th, 2018

1.) **Fact:** _____ persecution & Martyrdom is on the rise. (Keep up at www.persecution.com)

2.) Christian Freedom International reports that _____ a Christian is martyred for their faith"

3.) Excerpt from Foxes book of Martyrs: In Matthew 16:18, it is recorded that Jesus told His disciples, "I will build My church, and the gates of hell [Hades] shall not prevail against it." Three major points can be noted in Jesus' words:

1. Christ _____ have a church in this world;

2. His Church will be mightily _____.

3. None of the devil's attacks will _____ it.

4.) Persecution has not and will not _____ the Gospel!

5.) "The blood of the martyrs is the _____ of the church"

6.) What can we do? (Three things we can and should do)

1. Live like a _____ Christian!

2. _____ your suffering brethren.

3. Ready your heart for _____.

Notes: _____

Growth Group Discussion Questions

(Complete at home on separate sheet of paper if needed)

1.) Have you ever had to deal with a bully? How did you handle it?

2.) What kinds of persecution have you experienced for being a Christian? How did you handle it?

3.) Do you personally know anyone who has greatly suffered for being a Christian? Tell us about it.

4.) What can we do for our persecuted brethren?

5.) Pastor Mike ended his message with three suggestions of what we can and should do. What were those three things?

6.) As time permits look up and explore the following verses and discuss how they relate to the 3 things we must do. 1John 2:15-18; James 1:26-27; Hebrews 13:3; 1Peter 2:19-21; 1Peter 3:14-18; 1Peter 4:14-19; 2Timothy 3:12.

7.) Take some time to pray for the persecuted church.