

**The Persecuted Church**  
**Various Text November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020**

**Fact:** Christian persecution & Martyrdom is \_\_\_\_\_  
(Keep up at [www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com)) Christian Freedom International reports that "\_\_\_\_\_ a Christian is martyred for their faith".

Anti-Christian bigotry is the only form of \_\_\_\_\_ intolerance remaining in this country.

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.

Persecution has not and will not \_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel!  
"The blood of the martyrs is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church"

But 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:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**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 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. Use your VOM prayer cards if you have one. Or go to [persecution.com](http://persecution.com) for guidance.

