

General Topics :: The Call to be Martyred

The Call to be Martyred, on: 2014/1/4 14:16

What will happen if persecution comes to America? Are the stories of death camps, box cars with shackles, and guillotines true? Will I be one of those rounded up in the predawn hours of the morning by the forces of the the secret police? How will I respond? Will I be afraid?

The above questions can be dismissed as that posed by someone dwelling in paranoia. But the above questions are faced by believers daily in places like Somalia, Eritrea, and particularly N. Korea.

So how do these precious saints deal with the burden of living for Christ and dying for Him. The answer lies in knowing they are already dead in Christ. In places like N. Korea believers there make the choice they will die for Christ. They see themselves as marked for execution. Yet in doing so the church in N. Korea is growing in the midst of demonic darkness.

I read the average life expectancy of an evangelist in N. Korea is 3 to 6 months. Yet there are those who burn with a desire to take the gospel into the darkness of that nation. They do it realizing their lives will be short. But not fearing death they do it to bring life to people in demonic darkness. These evangelists choose to die for Christ.

If we will make that same choice. Choosing to die for Christ. This being the true way to live for Him (Gal 2:20). If we realize that the devil has been rendered powerless and we are freed from the fear of death (Heb 2:14-15). Then we are victorious. We will be those martyred saints who overcome the devil by the blood of the Lamb, by the word of our testimony, and moving not our own lives even when faced with death (Rev 12:11).

Let us choose to die for Christ. Let us accept the call to be martyred for Him. For such will be honored to reign with Jesus for a thousand years (Rev 20:4). Saints who accept this call will have no fear of the devil. Saints who accept this call will have no fear of death camps or guillotines. For this will be the triumphant persecuted church who crushes Satan under its heel.

For Him Who Was Slain,

Blaine Scogin

Re: The Call to be Martyred - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2014/1/4 19:35

Amen dear brother. May we be bold for Him now. Make disciples now. Witness now.

To be a living martyr is not just to die for Christ but to die now to ambition and desires of the flesh and do the will of God now even though it means suffering.

Re: The Call to be Martyred - posted by InTheLight (), on: 2014/1/5 10:07

Quote:

-----Let us choose to die for Christ. Let us accept the call to be martyred for Him.

Peter chose to die for Christ, and then denied he even knew Him. It is Christ who does the choosing and who gives grace for the need of each moment.

Ours is to humbly trust in the Father as dear children.

In Christ,

Ron

Re: - posted by ZekeO (), on: 2014/1/5 11:01

True story Ron...

May I ask a question if this is Gods call for us to be martyred why does Paul admonish timothy:

Quote:
----- I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 3 For this good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 1 tim 2:1-4

Re: Greg, on: 2014/1/5 14:43

Brother I agree. Paul writes to the Corinthians that he is always being given over to death (2 Cor 4:12). And he also says that he dies daily (1 Cor 15:31). Of course his thought is encapsulated in Gal 2:20 when Paul is stating he is crucified with Christ and because he no longer lives in the flesh Christ lives in him.

Indeed if we are dying to the things of this world by the cross of Christ. Then the guillotine or sword or firing squad or whatever instrument if death will not be a thing we fear.

Blaine

Re: Ron, on: 2014/1/5 14:51

Brother Peter was not filled with the Spirit when he said he would die for Christ. Thus denying Him.

After being filled with the Spirit Peter boldly witnessed for Christ. Ultimately he was martyred for Christ outside of Rome. Tradition says he was crucified upside down.

The persecuted in hostile nations know that choice is already made for them. They know to follow Christ is death. Thus by the Spirit they make the choice to die for Christ. They are crucified by the cross of Christ. Thus knowing they are already dead to Christ. The persecuted have no fear of martyrdom.

I might add, my brother, the choice is right before us also. Jesus said in Lk 9:23 that if anyone were to follow him they were to pick up their cross and die daily. Thus we are called to choose martyrdom.

Respectfully,

Blaine

Re: Zeke, on: 2014/1/5 15:03

Brother the exhortation to pray for government does not invalidate the call to martyrdom. There are countless testimonies of those martyred for Christ who faithfully prayed for their temporal governments.

However those martyred saints saw that their citizenship was in heaven and not on earth. For they were seeking a heavenly kingdom not an earthly one. I might add a kingdom that they were entering through trials and tribulations.

Respectfully,

Blaine

Re: - posted by Heydave (), on: 2014/1/5 16:45

I would agree with bear's perspective on this. The words of Jesus telling us to "pick up our cross" is too easily softened into meaning something not that radical. To those at the time (with many victims of the Roman rule dead or dying on crosses) it would have been very obvious what Jesus was saying, 'be prepared to die like your master'. The thing is, I don't want to hear that. I would prefer to make 'take up your cross' to mean something more comfortable like having a difficult boss or going without some luxury.

This is a hard saying of Jesus and hard for me to accept, but we have to come to terms with what this really means. None of us want or look for martyrdom, but it is something many have and do consider when they decide to follow Jesus. It may be that for those of us who have not had to consider this possibility that the days are changing when we will.

However, God will give the grace we need at the time for any eventuality that we find ourselves in. He is faithful and will not let us be tempted beyond what we can bear.

Re: The Call to be Martyred - posted by Jeremy221, on: 2014/1/5 21:20

I saw an interesting piece about an Old Believer in Siberia. She is now in her 70s. She made some valid comments about the sickness of the World and though she has not seen much of it, she's heard radio programs and news reports. Her family believed that they had fled from out of the World under Communism and by the grace of God managed to make a refuge in the taiga. Every day they worked hard just to live and build a place to take care of their animals. They existed unnoticed for a few decades but, then, ironically, some Soviet scientists spotted their homestead. Within weeks of contact her three siblings died of some disease. However, every day she rises early to pray and start caring for the animals and maintaining her home. Eventually, someone came to live nearby so she is not completely alone. Is this an example of taking your cross or just misguided devotion? When the rubber hits the road is feeding the chickens and caring for the infirm a cross?

Re: - posted by Oracio (), on: 2014/1/5 22:37

Jesus said that the reason the world hated Him was because He reproved it for its sin-John 7:7. He said if they hated Him they will also hate us because a servant is not greater than his Master.

I've come to realize that the one thing that will put us in danger of being martyred even in free countries is our bold witness for Christ. When we keep our faith to ourselves it is very likely we will not face any opposition; the world is generally okay with us as long as we don't bother them. But when we take seriously the call to verbally witness for Christ, watch out. That is when we put ourselves in a place where we just never know what may happen, even in free countries. There is enough evil in the whole world to prove my point.

I know of believers here in the US who constantly face beatings and threats of murder by angry lost people for boldly preaching the true gospel. And I'm not referring to the angry types of preachers who give the gospel a bad reputation.

I believe there is a great need for us to take advantage of certain freedoms we currently enjoy everyday and often take for granted. And I believe the main reason why many of us don't face persecution in free countries is because we are lukewarm when it comes to sharing our faith with a lost world on its way to hell.

Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2014/1/6 1:31

Quote:

To be a living martyr is not just to die for Christ but to die now to ambition and desires of the flesh and do the will of God now even though it means suffering.

It is very true brother. I have been reading the testimony of William Carey, the man who translated Bible in many local Indian languages, he was persecuted not just by local Hindus but also by his own English men in India. He lost his children, his wife became mentally retarded, still he continued his work in India. Today we have Bible in all our local Indian languages because of his efforts.

God spoke to him through Hebrews 13:13 asking him whether he is willing to take the reproach of Jesus and come out of the camp. He responded saying he is willing to suffer for Jesus name, he is willing to go to which ever part of the world the Lord wanted him to go. From that time God started preparing him from his work, and finally the call to India came. So to summarize it is the conscious decision to suffer for the name of Jesus that makes someone useful to God.

Re: , on: 2014/1/6 7:34

If you are not dying daily and living the crucified life then you will not die physically for Jesus.

Rom 8:36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

If we are serving sin then it does not matter how much we talk about martyrdom, as it will end up being only talk.

Rom 6:5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, THAT HENCEFORTH WE SHOULD NOT SERVE SIN.

Re: The Call to be Martyred, on: 2014/1/6 7:43

as the Lord calls me, I appreciate your heart brother Blaine, brother Greg, brother Frank and all you posted on this thread....I see visions written of death camps in American, of us maintaining a "bold witness for Christ", of preparing to "die" for Him....but where do we live NOW?

think for a second, with the Mind of Christ, where we make abode right now...in America.

What is the state of the 'church' in America? how have a great many of our "luminaries" in the 'church' profaned Messiah?....they speak of fornicators and homosexuals with great flourish....and yet how many high profile hypocrites are exposed?....they speak of our "Judeo-Christian" foundations, as a sort litmus test to this idol called "patriotism", yet they what they really do is carry the water, for those who grease the wheels of a vast machine of military might and conquest that only exists to go the very areas some of you speak, NOT to preach Good News of Messiah Jesus, but to subjugate and make submit, other weaker nations, so they can TAKE their wealth, their gold.....and MOST importantly THEIR OIL....because this "oil" is what has made the merchants of the earth RICH.

these idolaters USE the "church" and these leading luminaries to sell the concept of "American exceptionalism".....they call themselves "Christian reconstructionist's"...or "dominionists"...they WANT a devilish form of theocracy, so that they rob and steal and subjugate on A GLOBAL BASIS....all the while using the Name of Messiah as their "covering"....

THIS is the spirit of Babylon!....and what is in the CUP of the Whore of Babylon?...its oil!!!!....at the ROOT of every one of these countless hellish brushwars all over the globeis these merchants seeking HYDROCARBONS

are there any "accidents" in God?...no! that is why a VAST amount of this filth they so desperately desire lays under the hands of the sons of Ishmael.

I know I speak of worldly things, BUT these are the shadow of a vast cosmic battle between the Light and the dark. God is Light and in Him, there is no darkness.

there is nothing worse in His Eyes, than a hypocrite and a liar, and we have become a nation of hypocrites.....why is it just now, post 2008, that suddenly more of the Body has woken up, and seen JUST WHAT we have become?...is it because we've "elected" a president that many regard as a "muslim", or a "communist", or a "liberal"?

where were the voices in 2003, when we invaded Iraq?....even TODAY, we're NOT certain if 9/11 WAS AS ADVERTISED! I speak truth....and today, our legions are spread in COUNTLESS nations, subjugating and subverting...murdering innocents, women and children...is it any wonder, the people there....might just regard "missionaries" with a jaundiced eye" was it not Brother Andrew himself that prophesied, "if America invades Iraq, it will be close to impossible to preach the

Word in the 10/40 window?....he SAID that...he warned us.

yet it seems to me, what invokes the main ire of some of the saints here, are homosexual marriages, the homosexual "agenda"...or homosexuals being ordained in these apostate "churches"...of course that's hideous and just filth...its the tip of the iceberg, its the canary in the coal mine....its an easy target...what are they REALLY going to do to you, you think an army of queer activists is going to come at night, gunned up and rip you out of your house for the death camps?

its the legions of Babylon who will...and woe, if they decide to dress Jesus in the American flag, construct a whore similar to the whore of rome and make some foul abomination called the "church of America", send forth "clergy response teams" to misuse Romans 13...and TELL YOU"SUBMIT!!!"

When I was pondering and praying to write this post, my soul took me to 705 BC, when that filth mob of assyrians surrounded Jerusalem, sent forth their emissaries to speak IN HEBREW, to demoralize the King Hezekiah's men on the walls...demanding they surrender and come out...."and yes, we'll spare your lives" (i'm paraphrasing...its one of favorite passages out of the Bible)

those men weren't demoralized....they KNEW possibly they could DIE, but they kept their position on the wall, and swords, and bows at the ready...this threat was conveyed to that good and Godly king Hezekiah, who spread it out before himself, humbled himself before God, and prayed....and who else was there to hear the Word of the LORD...the prophet Isaiah, who then told Hezekiah, the Word of the LORD, which that was He, Lord God of Hosts, was going to fight this battle...and God Almighty DID!

He blew that rabble and filth RIGHT BACK TO Nineveh

this to me, is a model for today, a Godly King, a Godly prophet, in fact the Prince of Prophets, who FORESAW Messiah..and the LORD Himself, Yahweh.

oh yes! amen....DIE TO SELF brethren!!!....but you stand on that wall like men! and have NOTHING to do with Babylon...its filthy anti-Christ provisions, and lies and hypocrisies....back slidden "denominations", 10 shekel and a shirt preachers, and all the other lies that tail along with that like a foul odor.

because its almost too late....i'm not sure...MAYBE, oh please Lord, we get one LAST "Josiah" revival.....but my heart tells me Judgment is coming and we get crushed, burned battered and broken.

I love you all in Jesus' love, and may His Grace, His Peace, His Mercy follow you all the days of your life, neil

Re: - posted by Jeremy221, on: 2014/1/6 7:49

What does it look like in daily life? Can you be like Moses who spent his most fruitful years as nothing, hidden? It is worthwhile to look at people who have lived like Moses today. We often miss the reality of what God put His servants through seeing only one tiny aspect. I bet if you were faced with the prospect of being sent to prison you would be up in arms. You'd call a lawyer to demand justice. You'd mull in anger against God by blaming the hands He used instead of waiting in quietness. What if you were sentenced to death and truly only had God as your comforter? No wife or friends. No food, no heat, no books. Do you know God like that?

Re: Jeremy, on: 2014/1/6 8:08

brethren,

Quote:

----- Do you know God like that?

were you asking that of me?...in regards to my post?

Re: HW - posted by Jeremy221, on: 2014/1/6 8:44

Not specifically. You posted while I was writing. I know when I saw the piece about the Old Believer that part of me sided with the folks who shot the piece. I had the sense of wasted time, forty years? Alone? Almost no outside contact? Yet, with "A Call to the Churches of America," I rejoiced when they were lead out. Art Katz talks about some of the places of refuge in desolate emptiness that God is preparing. The zeal and excitement of relying fully on God "out there" It is out there. When God sifts, He sifts. Have you considered what sifting the Church like He did the people of Israel will look like? Seriously, no sensationalized version but, you, tired, hungry, fleeing beyond your strength and ability. Disoriented, on edge, emotionally sapped. People injured, sick, sullen. Will the River flow then?

http://artkatzministries.org/MP3s/K-159_Apostolic_Commission.mp3

Re: - posted by jujashan4 (), on: 2014/1/7 8:09

Isn't the key in this that we have already died with Christ and been raised with him.
For you died and your life is now hidden with Christ in God
If anyone be in Christ he is a new creation
Consider yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus
I have been crucified with Christ and no longer live but Christ lives in me

Re: The Objective Work of Christ Must Become Subjective, on: 2014/1/7 8:41

The key is for the objective work of Christ to become subjective.

THE OBJECTIVE AND SUBJECTIVE WORK OF CHRIST

By: James M. Campbell

The ground of salvation is in the historical Christ. His death for human sin is an accomplished fact, an objective reality, standing out on the canvas of history. In gospel preaching the objective side of things must be explained, for it is from the objective truth that the subjective experience comes.

If the outward revelation is discarded, inward experience withers and dies. Bushnell frankly admits that "any strictly subjective style of religion is vicious. It is moral self-culture, in fact, and not religion." Those who, like Origen, have tried to rise to a position in which they would become independent of the outward revelation, have in kicking away the ladder by which they have risen cut themselves off from connection with the solid facts upon which all experience must ultimately rest. The Christian grows in grace by growing in the knowledge of His Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He gathers strength by transmuting objective knowledge into subjective power.

Before the Atonement can attain its end, the objective gospel must produce certain subjective effects, and its historical facts become spiritual forces. The work which Christ has done for us must have as its counterpart a work that He does in us. His death for sin must become our death to sin. The life which He gave must be received; repose in what He has done must be connected with co-operation in what He is doing; the acceptance of His deliverance must be accompanied by the possession of His spirit. All that He did must be actualised in us.

Not the least service which the Protestant mystics have rendered to Christian truth, is the emphasis which they have put upon the subjective side of religion; although they have not always been careful to maintain the balance of truth by showing the relation which exists between objective fact and subjective experience.

"That man is no Christian," says Jacob Boehme, "who doth merely comfort himself with the suffering, death and satisfaction of Christ, and doth impute it to himself as a gift or favour, remaining himself still a wild beast and unregenerate. If this said sacrifice is to avail for me, it must be wrought in me."

To the same effect are the words of William Law, "Christ given for us is neither more nor less than Christ given unto us. He is in no other sense our full, perfect, and sufficient Atonement than as His nature and spirit are born and formed in us."

The Reformers sometimes went to the opposite extreme from the mystics, and unduly emphasised the objective side of things. In their zeal for the doctrine of justification by faith they did not develop in its fulness the doctrine of sanctification. One of the tasks which they have left the Christian teachers of today is to round out the conception of salvation, by showing

ing the necessary and intimate relation between the objective and subjective elements in the Atonement of Christ; so that to the declaration of faith "Christ died for me," shall be joined the declaration of experience, "Christ liveth in me."

From: The Heart of the Gospel: A Popular Exposition of the Doctrine of the Atonement. Fleming H. Revell Co. 1907. Pgs 165-168.