

Church History :: Chinese Christians memorize Bible in prison: Gov't 'can't take what's hidden

Chinese Christians memorize Bible in prison: Gov't 'can't take what's hidden in your heart' - posted by sermon

Chinese Christians imprisoned for their faith are memorizing Scripture passages smuggled to them on small pieces of paper because prison guards "can't take what's hidden in your heart," one former prisoner revealed.

In a recent sermon, Wayne Cordeiro, pastor of New Hope Christian Fellowship in Honolulu, Hawaii, shared an experience he had on a trip to China, where the church went to train leaders.

The pastor shared how 22 Christians from the Hunan Province took a 13-hour train ride to attend the leadership training held at a 700-square-foot hotel room. Out of the 22 Christians present, 18 had been imprisoned for their faith, the pastor revealed.

"If we get caught what will happen to me?" Cordeiro began by asking.

"Well, you will get deported in 24 hours, and we will go to prison for three years," the Chinese Christians responded.

After beginning his lesson, the pastor realized he only had 15 Bibles to pass around, so seven people went without.

"I said, 'turn to 2 Peter 1, we are going to read it.' Just then one lady handed hers to the person next to her, and I thought 'hmm interesting,'" he recalled.

As the Christians began reading, he quickly realized why she had given her Bible away: she had memorized the whole book.

"When it was done, I went over to her at a break and said, 'You recited the whole chapter,'" he said. She replied, "In prison, you have much time in prison."

"Don't they confiscate the Bible?" he asked.

She said that while any Christian material is indeed confiscated, people smuggle in scripture written on paper and hide it from the prison guards.

"That's why we memorize it as fast as we can because even though they can take the paper away, they can't take what's hidden in your heart," she explained.

Following the three-day training session, one Chinese Christian man asked Cordeiro, "Could you pray that one day we could just be like you?"

"I looked at him and said, 'I will not do that,'" he replied. "You guys road a train 13 hours to get here. In my country, if you have to drive more than an hour, people won't come."

"You sat on a wooden floor for three days. In my country, if people have to sit for more than 40 minutes they leave. You sat here for not only three days on a hard wooden floor, in my country if it's not padded pews and air conditioning, people will not come back."

"In my country, we have an average of two Bibles per family. We don't read any of them. You hardly have any Bibles and you memorize them from pieces of paper."

"I will not pray that you become like us, but I will pray that we become just like you," he concluded.

China has seen explosive growth in the number of believers over the last several decades. Estimates have even suggested that China is on track to have the largest Christian population in the world by 2030.

About 30 million Christians in China are estimated to attend state-sanctioned churches while many others attend illegal underground house churches that are not registered with the government.

In efforts to stunt the rapid growth of Christianity, authorities throughout China have shuttered a number of prominent house churches and arrested Christians for worshiping without the approval of the government.

Previously, Crazy Love author Francis Chan said he believes the reason the underground Chinese church has grown so large is that Chinese Christians "actually believed they could make disciples and start these gatherings because Jesus was enough."

"I started to think, 'This is what made the underground church in China unstoppable. If you have a group of people that actually embrace suffering, how are you ever going to stop them?'" he asked during the "Rethink Church/Rethink Mission" event at McLean Bible Church in Vienna, Virginia, in October.

Chan argued that the problem with churches in the West is they are "so stoppable the moment it gets too difficult."

"What if you actually go, 'I want to suffer for Christ?'" Chan asked. "Will you suffer to obey these things? Will you actually sacrifice? Because it's a lot easier to come somewhere and be fed than to love as much as Christ loved you, as much as the Father loves the Son, and to break bread with thinking, 'Christ was tortured for me; would I do that for?'"

The pastor urged Christians in the West to embrace suffering for the glory of Christ "because the Church is that beautiful and that important."

from: <https://www.christianpost.com/news/chinese-christians-memorize-bible-prison-cant-take-whats-hidden-in-your-heart-231580/>

Re: Memorizing Scripture. - posted by EAGLEFLYING (), on: 2019/9/29 20:31

Brother Greg,

Excellent post and good reminder.....

I am thankful for the Baptist's who taught me to memorize scripture.. I still write scripture down to memorize it..

It is a weapon no one can take from you. I still memorize scripture.. Derek Prince said " When the Martyrs were being burned they would quote scripture..

May we hide His word in our hearts so we do not sin against HIM..

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Psa 119:11

Greatest weapon we have is to have His word hidden in our heart..

In Jesus

Sister

Frannie