

Articles and Sermons :: Preparing for Tribulation -ten boom

Preparing for Tribulation -ten boom - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2007/1/13 2:06

Preparing for Tribulation

by Corrie Ten Boom

The world is deathly ill. It is dying. The Great Physician has already signed the death certificate. Yet there is still a great work for Christians to do. They are to be streams of living water, channels of mercy to those who are still in the world. It is possible for them to do this because they are overcomers.

Christians are ambassadors for Christ. They are representatives from Heaven to this dying world. And because of our presence here, things will change.

My sister, Betsy, and I were in the Nazi concentration camp at Ravensbruck because we committed the crime of loving Jews. Seven hundred of us from Holland, France, Russia, Poland and Belgium were herded into a room built for two hundred. As far as I knew, Betsy and I were the only two representatives of Heaven in that room.

We may have been the Lord's only representatives in that place of hatred, yet because of our presence there, things changed. Jesus said, "In the world you shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." We too, are to be overcomers—bringing the light of Jesus into a world filled with darkness and hate.

Sometimes I get frightened as I read the Bible, and as I look in this world and see all of the tribulation and persecution promised by the Bible coming true. Now I can tell you, though, if you too are afraid, that I have just read the last pages. I can now come to shouting "Hallelujah! Hallelujah!" for I have found where it is written that Jesus said, "He that overcometh shall inherit all things: and I will be His God, and he shall be My son." This is the future and hope of this world. Not that the world will survive—but that we shall be overcomers in the midst of a dying world.

Betsy and I, in the concentration camp, prayed that God would heal Betsy who was so weak and sick. "Yes, the Lord will heal me," Betsy said with confidence. She died the next day and I could not understand it. They laid her thin body on the concrete floor along with all the other corpses of the women who died that day.

It was hard for me to understand, to believe that God had a purpose for all that. Yet because of Betsy's death, today I am traveling all over the world telling people about Jesus.

There are some among us teaching there will be no tribulation, that the Christians will be able to escape all this. These are the false teachers that Jesus was warning us to expect in the latter days. Most of them have little knowledge of what is already going on across the world. I have been in countries where the saints are already suffering terrible persecution. In China, the Christians were told, "Don't worry, before the tribulation comes you will be translated—raptured." Then came a terrible persecution. Millions of Christians were tortured to death. Later I heard a Bishop from China say, sadly, "We have failed. We should have made the people strong for persecution rather than telling them Jesus would come first. Tell the people how to be strong in times of persecution, how to stand when the tribulation comes—to stand and not faint."

I feel I have a divine mandate to go and tell the people of this world that it is possible to be strong in the Lord Jesus Christ. We are in training for the tribulation, but more than sixty percent of the Body of Christ across the world has already entered into the tribulation. There is no way to escape it. We are next.

Since I have already gone through prison for Jesus' sake, and since I met the Bishop in China, now every time I read a good Bible text I think, "Hey, I can use that in the time of tribulation." Then I write it down and learn it by heart.

When I was in the concentration camp, a camp where only twenty percent of the women came out alive, we tried to cheer each other up by saying, "Nothing could be any worse than today." But we would find the next day was even worse. During this time a Bible verse that I had committed to memory gave me great hope and joy. "If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you; on their part evil is spoken of, but on you

our part He is glorified." (I Peter 3:14) I found myself saying, "Hallelujah! Because I am suffering, Jesus is glorified!"

In America, the churches sing, "Let the congregation escape tribulation", but in China and Africa the tribulation has already arrived. This last year alone more than two hundred thousand Christians were martyred in Africa. Now things like that never get into the newspapers because they cause bad political relations. But I know. I have been there. We need to think about that when we sit down in our nice houses with our nice clothes to eat our steak dinners. Many, many members of the Body of Christ are being tortured to death at this very moment, yet we continue right on as though we are all going to escape the tribulation.

Several years ago I was in Africa in a nation where a new government had come into power. The first night I was there some of the Christians were commanded to come to the police station to register. When they arrived they were arrested and that same night they were executed. The next day the same thing happened with other Christians. The third day it was the same. All the Christians in the district were being systematically murdered.

The fourth day I was to speak in a little church. The people came, but they were filled with fear and tension. All during the service they were looking at each other, their eyes asking, "Will this one I am sitting beside be the next one killed? Will I be the next one?"

The room was hot and stuffy with insects that came through the screenless windows and swirled around the naked bulbs over the bare wooden benches. I told them a story out of my childhood.

"When I was a little girl," I said, "I went to my father and said, 'Daddy, I am afraid that I will never be strong enough to be a martyr for Jesus Christ.' 'Tell me,' said Father, 'When you take a train trip to Amsterdam, when do I give you the money for the ticket? Three weeks before?' 'No, Daddy, you give me the money for the ticket just before we get on the train.' 'That is right,' my father said, 'and so it is with God's strength. Our Father in Heaven knows when you will need the strength to be a martyr for Jesus Christ. He will supply all you need—just in time.'"

My African friends were nodding and smiling. Suddenly a spirit of joy descended upon that church and the people began singing, "In the sweet, by and by, we shall meet on that beautiful shore." Later that week, half the congregation of that church was executed. I heard later that the other half was killed some months ago.

But I must tell you something. I was so happy that the Lord used me to encourage these people, for unlike many of their leaders, I had the word of God. I had been to the Bible and discovered that Jesus said He had not only overcome the world, but to all those who remained faithful to the end, He would give a crown of life.

How can we get ready for the persecution? First we need to feed on the word of God, digest it, make it a part of our being. This will mean disciplined Bible study each day as we not only memorize long passages of scripture, but put the principles to work in our lives.

Next we need to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Not just the Jesus of yesterday, the Jesus of History, but the life-changing Jesus of today who is still alive and sitting at the right hand of God.

We must be filled with the Holy Spirit. This is no optional command of the Bible, it is absolutely necessary. Those earthly disciples could never have stood up under the persecution of the Jews and Romans had they not waited for Pentecost. Each of us needs our own personal Pentecost, the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We will never be able to stand in the tribulation without it.

In the coming persecution we must be ready to help each other and encourage each other. But we must not wait until the tribulation comes before starting. The fruit of the Spirit should be the dominant force of every Christian's life.

Many are fearful of the coming tribulation, they want to run. I, too, and a little bit afraid when I think that after all my eighty years, including the horrible Nazi concentration camp, that I might have to go through the tribulation also. But then I read the Bible and I am glad.

When I am weak, then I shall be strong, the Bible says. Betsy and I were prisoners for the Lord, we were so weak, but we got power because the Holy Spirit was on us. That mighty inner strengthening of the Holy Spirit helped us through. No, you will not be strong in yourself when the tribulation comes. Rather, you will be strong in the power of Him who will not forsake you. For seventy-six years I have known the Lord Jesus and not once has He ever left me, or let me down. T

though He slay me, yet will I trust Him, for I know that to all who overcome, He shall give the crown of life. Hallelujah!

Written in 1974.

Re: Preparing for Tribulation -ten boom - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2007/1/13 8:32

Greg,
Thanks for posting this!

Corrie ten Boom is among my favorite writers. She wrote simply and got to the point without any rabbit trails. We heard her speak one time in Memphis, TN and she spoke just like she wrote.

Now I need to get her books out and read them again...thanks for the reminder.

ginnyrose

Re: Preparing for Tribulation -ten boom - posted by tjservant (), on: 2007/1/13 9:13

Just terrific! What truths! Thanks for posting this. We have been oh so fortunate in America, but our time will come and I fear it will be horrendous.

I have never read anything by her before, and this will not be the last.

In His service

TJ

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2007/1/13 13:41

Thanks Greg. Such stark clarity in this Ten Boom article. It humbles.

Quote:
-----In America, the churches sing, "Let the congregation escape tribulation", but in China and Africa the tribulation has already arrived.

If we think we are more sober than all the rest in America, then we should also be praying more than all the rest in this hour. Indeed we should be praying for all the rest.

We must always abide in Christ for God's flowing grace in all our circumstances. Pray for one another that we learn this and we will be ready when our time comes.

MC

Re: Preparing for Tribulation -ten boom - posted by Meriwether, on: 2007/1/13 15:55

I appreciate this important message. It reminds me to be more diligent in scripture memorization and to be more mindful of the persecuted church.

Thanks,

C. Meriwether

Re: Preparing for Tribulation -ten boom - posted by Smokey (), on: 2007/1/13 18:12

Words of wisdom from a great servant of God. How much more sobering are her insights in today's world. Come quickly Lord Jesus.

Joh 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Blessings Greg

Re: Preparing for Tribulation -ten boom - posted by ReviveUsLord, on: 2007/6/16 9:34

Quote:
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The whole article is great, and I just couldn't resist but quote a lot of it. I've been encouraged by recent threads posted here on SI and thought I would bring this up again. May the Lord strengthen and encourage all of us to be sober and vigilant!

1Jn 2:28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

Re: Preparing for Tribulation -ten boom, on: 2007/6/16 10:13

Dear Greg, thank you for posting this.

You also posted Dave MacPherson last week and many were touched by that list also. Praise God and thank you for being sensitive to the spirit.

I'd like to link these two posts of yours but I can't post URLs properly, to post that other thread.

Now that Ruth Graham has gone to her reward, your thread here reminded me of a letter that she wrote to Dave MacPherson.

If I might share it

http://truthkeepers.com/graham_letter.htm

thank you 'very' much again brother Greg.

Re: - posted by ccchhhrrriiisss (), on: 2007/6/16 11:06

Hi Greg...

Thanks for including this message. I'm glad that there are individuals who counter the prosperity circle's messages of "health and wealth" by pointing out the immense degrees of tribulation endured by believers around the world. I've never understood how the "faith message: adherents could preach such a message knowing the terrible circumstances (both in terms of economic conditions and persecution) that our brothers and sisters in other parts of the world. Yet the people of God will choose to serve him REGARDLESS of the temporary sorrows of this life.

Again, thank you for the inclusion of the article! I didn't see a reference. Is this from a message included in the Audio Sermon section or from one of Corrie ten Boom's books?

:~)

Re:, on: 2007/6/16 20:57

2 TimothyÂ.....Those who live Godly in Christ Jesus WILL suffer persecution.

I believe regardless of the "times" or place, EVERY Christian suffers persecution and tribulation, in every generation. This is the Hallmark of being a Christian., right here and now. Yes even in America, in spite of our prosperity Gospels, or Christians in politics who try to make things better (as I was once told) for Christians here in America. My comment was, All the Kings horses and all the kings men could never make the True Christian life more comfortable, no matter where you live.

Persecution in America is different then around the world. None the less, persecution it is. Suffering can be more than a physical suffering...yet we think it is physical only. These scriptures are not about a time that is coming, but a life that is evident you are a True Child of God. If you think you have escaped or hope to escape suffering or tribulation or persecution, and that it belongs to the tribulation period only, or that those in America have somehow escaped...you are absolutely wrong.

*****Paul said, that I may know Him and the fellowship of His suffering.

*****Always carrying about in our body the dying of Jesus that the Life of Jesus is made manifest.

Our life, that reveals Christ in us, is manifest through suffering and persecution.

Hebrews says, Jesus suffered so He could minister to us through our sufferings.

1 Peter 1:

7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

1 Peter 4:

12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

Jesus already warned us.

John 16:33

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Acts 14:22

Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

Romans 5:2-4

2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

2 Corinthians 1:4

Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

1 Thessalonians 3:4

For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know now.

2 Thessalonians 1:4

So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

Revelation 1:9

I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Love in Christ Jesus

Katy-did

:~)

Re: Preparing for Tribulation -ten boom, on: 2007/6/17 1:32

Thanks for posting this article, Greg!

Quote:
-----There are some among us teaching there will be no tribulation, that the Christians will be able to escape all this. **These are the false teachers that Jesus was warning us to expect in the latter days. Most of them have little knowledge of what is already going on across the world.** I have been in countries where the saints are already suffering terrible persecution. In China, the Christians were told, "**Don't worry, before the tribulation comes you will be translated &-- raptured.**" Then came a terrible persecution. Millions of Christians were tortured to death.

And people wonder why I get so worked up over pre-trib doctrine...

Re:, on: 2007/6/17 8:10

It makes me sad that we connect suffering and tribulation with the idea we will escape it through the rapture. Are we talking about two different kinds of Tribulation?

Those In Christ, have suffered, and entered the Kingdom through much tribulation (we've been translated (now) out of the present evil age into the Kingdom of His Dear Son),

But we will not suffer the coming *wrath* of God.

The suffering Christians endure from the moment we are Born Again should be taught to Christians. This is in the Bible, this is what Jesus told us would follow true conversion.

Mark 8:35

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

John 12:25

He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

Philippians 1:29

For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;

In America, especially, this is a hated Gospel. And those who preach it are persecuted for doing so. There is persecution here in America for preaching the Cross. Our persecution is coming from those who have replaced the Cross with the Flag. You see, in those countries like China, they do not teach that China is the New Promised Land, and that the Chinese Christians are God's New Chosen people. But we are??? They are not told to pray, if "my people will humble themselves, I will heal their land"...but we are??? Why? Are there two different Gospels going around, one for America and one for the rest of the world? We have been made to believe we are more special than any other Christians around the world. The prosperity Gospel here started with Calvinism / Commerce. Those who stand up and tell the truth are persecuted, and told they are anti-american and anti-christ.

I'm sure as I say this, many who believe and have been taught this think what I'm saying is terrible. The fact is, the True Church is the Body of Christ, made up of believers all over the world. Geography or politics have nothing to do with it.

America is just another Gentile world power, and God NEVER made a Covenant promise to any Gentile nation. But I agree, the day is coming when the Lord will humble America. America has built a Gospel (The Gospel of America) built on sinking sand. My prayer is that these other countries will send Missionaries to America....we are lost, lost, lost, in so many different Gospels, that cannot save a flea.

Love in Christ

Katy-did

:-)

PS: Born Again Christians are not in pursuit of happiness, we are in pursuit of Holiness.