

# PERSECUTED

Mat. 5:10

Joh. 15:20

2Ti. 3:12

# DEFINITION

- **per·se·cute** /'pərsə ,kyoōt/ verb
- subject (someone) to hostility and ill-treatment, especially because of their race or political or religious beliefs.
- to harass or punish in a manner designed to injure, grieve, or afflict specifically : to cause to suffer because of belief
- **Synonyms: afflict, agonize, anguish, bedevil, beset, besiege, curse, excruciate, harrow, plague, rack, torment, torture**

# THE STATISTICS

- Christianity is illegal in over 50 countries.
- According to the evangelical group Open Doors, 215 million Christians face interrogation, arrest, torture and/or death because of their belief in Jesus.
- Todd Johnson of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary documents that 100,000 Christians, 11 per hour, have been killed on average every year of the past decade.
- While 30 percent of the world's population identifies as Christian, 80 percent of all acts of religious discrimination around the world are directed at Christians.
- Terrorism against Christians has increased over 300% within the last decade. There have been approximately 70 million martyrs since the time of Christ, 45 million of them in the 20th century.

# NOTABLE PERSECUTIONS

- JOB
- JOSEPH
- JEREMIAH
- JOHN THE BAPTIST
- APOSTLE PAUL (and all the Apostles)
- JESUS
- YOU

# **HOW ARE WE PERSECUTED**

- **SLOWLY STRIPPED OF OUR RIGHTS AS CHRISTIANS**
- **FALSE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST OUR CHARACTER**
- **ATTACKS ON THE WORD OF GOD (THE BIBLE)**
- **PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSECUTION**
- **ECONOMIC PERSECUTION**
- **PHYSICAL PERSECUTION AROUND THE WORLD**

# WHAT WE CAN DO

- LEAD PEOPLE TO CHRIST
  - LIVE A LIFE WORTHY OF THE GOSPEL
- FOCUS ON CHRIST WHO WAS PERSECUTED MOST OF ALL
- RELY ON THE COMFORTER (HOLY SPIRIT)
- COMFORT AND PROTECT ONE ANOTHER
- PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED AND THE PERSECUTORS

# CONCLUSION

- YOU WILL BE PERSECUTED FOR THE CAUSE OF CHRIST!
- IT IS PERSONAL, FACE IT, CHALLENGE IT!
- HAVE NO FEAR OF PERSECUTION!
  
- Php. 4:19 - And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.