

Persecutions

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also." (John 15:18-20)

Were any of us so out of touch with reality that we thought that persecution would not come to America? I have always thought that Christians have been persecuted throughout history, and that we in America are not better than they were. In San Antonio, Texas there is an ordinance that is being put forth before the city council. If it is made law, and allowed to stand, a Christian would not be allowed to run for, or hold, any public office. That sounds like discrimination to me.

Our homegrown sinners and heathens, as well as those coming in from other countries, want to tear down any thing, and anyone, who would stand for decency and morals, especially those who stand for Jesus. What religion that seems to be tolerated is that which is man made, and/or watered down to where it is nothing like the gospel in the Bible. We are supposed to accept anything, and everything, never saying that anything is wrong. If you do you are labeled as prejudiced and narrow minded. To the sinner, nothing is wrong, but the person who dared to say that something is wrong, and a sin. Remember John the Baptist? He was killed because he told Herod that he was breaking the law by having his brother's wife.

This attitude in San Antonio is not the first, or the last, that we'll see. Years ago I heard of a Doctor, or scientist, that said, "If it were up to me, Christians wouldn't be allowed to get medicine. If they believe in God, then let God heal them." Christians, get ready for persecution, because if you will stand for God you will be hated and persecuted, like Jesus said. When this happens the Christian will stand, and the hypocrites will melt away. Only dedicated Christians will be able to

take the heat of persecution. As the three in the fire said, "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." (Dan. 3:17-18) We will have to decide, if we haven't already, where we will stand.

I have witnessed those who said that they were Christians dodge taking a stand on issues. Some said that taking a side would be bad for business. Others that they would make some of their friends angry. Others had various excuses for other situations. Would this type of "Christian" face persecution for the Lord? If they can't take people talking about them, there is no way they would face a beating or death. We need to be more concerned with what the Lord thinks of us, than what the world thinks. **Luke 6: 22**, "Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and shall cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Remember, those who hate you do so, because they hate the Lord." Also think of this - The Lord loves you.

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