

# Persecution of Christians: Life in the Midst of a Culture of Death

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**Jesus:** The followers of Christ have been persecuted from the beginning. Countless people have had to lay down their lives for the sake of Christ rather than deny Him. All but one of Jesus's disciples, a.k.a. apostles, became martyrs for their faith and commitment to Christ. Jesus said this was to be expected when He said, ***“A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.”*** (John 15:20)

The history of the Christian church shows that persecution of Christians has been constant. It has never let up in the world. Even today in many nations Christians are suffering and dying for their faith. Their places of worship are burned. They are losing their businesses, their homes and their families. Their women are raped and tortured in front of their family members.

**America**, which was birthed as a Christian nation and which established freedom of religion and freedom of speech as one of its pillars for society, has changed.

We are seeing Christians, Christian thought and beliefs, targeted by the God-haters in hopes to eradicate the God of the Bible and Christ from our culture. In more recent times, the fight against Christianity started to come full force since the early 1960s when prayer and the Bible were banned from public schools. From that point on we feel the impact.

For example, statistics that had pretty much held steady on out-of-wedlock pregnancies, violent crime, and delinquency, started to climb. We began inching down a slippery slope of immorality. The Law and commandments of God deter lawlessness. The Bible, the Word of God show us Life, what God is like, what love looks like.

Only Jesus holds forth hope for a fallen humanity. Without the restraint of the Law, **actions and lifestyles** have broken boundaries, fists in God's face, and abounding lawlessness. (Romans 1) The push for acceptability and approval demonstrate the void deep down in people, a void only the Living God by His Holy Spirit can fill.

Mainline churches and those watering down the gospel of Jesus Christ and often preaching the gospel of money, began caving to the cravings of the perverse spirit and the spirit of whoredoms and error. Wanting freedom from the Creator, who is a God of order and not confusion, wanting to kill the Creator and take His place, and wanting to choose their destiny and to fulfill their desires, these who walk after the flesh put

themselves at war with the Spirit, the Holy Spirit. These corrupt themselves. What does righteousness have to do with unrighteousness?

We are living among the dead. We live within a culture of death, death by cancellation, by murder, by abortion, by suicide, by starvation. Why do we seek the living among the dead? And lest we forget, we were dead in trespasses and sins before Christ shined on us, before we were born out of God, born again, regenerated by the Holy Spirit, who is the Life Giver, the Life-Maker.

In America, Christians place all this persecution somewhere else in the world. But it's here, with all the subtleness of the Serpent, law makers devising iniquity through the law (Psalm 94), plotting evil on their beds, twisting truth, and ensnaring the weak and fragile.

It used to be that everyone should be tolerant; now we see increasing intolerance for Christians. We see it through fines, lawsuits, jobs lost, and the public disdain.

There is persecution in politics. Christian politicians seem to be the most attacked for their religious beliefs. They are subjected to rigorous scrutiny if they dare to voice their Christian values in their campaigns and on the job. Silence them! But Jesus was a lamb silent as He went to the slaughter. He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly.

We know it, from politics, business, education, speech, and even Christian holidays, there is one level or other of persecution.

Persecution against Christianity is unavoidable. Followers of Jesus Christ have had to deal with it for 2000 years and counting. Only our reaction to persecution should be like Jesus and the early Christians who dealt with it.

**Let's live in the power of the gospel.** Remember, ***"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places"* (Ephesians 6:12).** Let us thrive in the midst of persecution. We are different from anyone else in the world; let's live in that power we have been granted in Christ. We may be deceived unless or until we become lovers of the Truth.

<https://culturallegacy.org/christian-persecution-in-america/> Nena Arias | February 8, 2021

**Worldwide**, 360 million Christians face persecution. The top five areas of severe persecution include: Afghanistan, Africa's Sahel region, which runs across the western, sub-Saharan countries of Mauritania and Mali to the eastern countries of Ethiopia and Eritrea; India, Nigeria, and North Korea when 2022 began. It's been getting worse both globally and here in America. <https://forthemartyrs.com/5-christian-persecution-hotspots-in-2022-report-from-release-international-reveals/> The Biden administration removed Nigeria last year from the U.S. State Department's Countries of Particular Concern list, sparking rebuke and concern from persecution watchdogs.

<https://www.faithwire.com/2022/11/14/stop-killing-christians-biden-admin-hit-with-massive-petition-over-puzzling-handling-of-persecution-in-nigeria/>

Warnings and admonitions to prepare for persecution here in America are also increasing. Jesus was hated without a cause. Followers of Christ are not sinless; Jesus is the only righteous one, pure, and undefiled. Christians are being targeted, just as many other groups are and have been targeted.

Today is the International Day of Prayer. We will be praying the prayer for the persecuted, and as we do we must include ourselves in that prayer. We need to be prepared, "prayed up," as some folks say, and trusting the Covenant-keeping Lord for protection, provision, pity, empowering, progress in knowing Christ, for His Presence as He abides in us and we abide in Him and in His Word. We need the favor of the Lord and His blessing. We need to pray, stay alert, watch, and be ready, remain thankful in every circumstance, and continue to bless the Lord, delight in Him, and praise Him for all that He has given us in Christ Jesus.

**On the airplane** while coming back from the Negev region of Israel, I saw the movie "Darkest Hour."

"The film is an account of Winston Churchill's early days as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom during the Second World War and the May 1940 War Cabinet Crisis, depicting his refusal to seek a peace treaty with Nazi Germany amid their advance into Western Europe. [Wikipedia](#)"

**Winston Churchill:** "This is perhaps Churchill's most famous speech, used in television and film programs reflecting on the PM's life for decades to come.

It was not an address given live to the nation, but to the Commons, with only MPs and staff able to hear its debut.

However, there is no doubt it will be remembered as one of the most powerful political oratories of all time.

**"The British Empire and the French Republic, linked together in their cause and in their need, will defend to the death their native soil, aiding each other like good comrades to the utmost of their strength.**

**"Even though large tracts of Europe and many old and famous states have fallen or may fall into the grip of the Gestapo and all the odious apparatus of Nazi rule, we shall not flag or fail.**

**"We shall go on to the end, we shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be.**

**"We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender, and even if, which I do not for a moment believe, this island or a large part of it were subjugated and starving, then our Empire beyond the seas, armed and guarded by the British fleet, would carry on the struggle, until, in God's good**

**time, the new world, with all its power and might, steps forth to the rescue and the liberation of the old."**

House of Commons - 4 June 1940 <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-52522965>

VE Day did not come until 1945, but it did come. The war was over in Europe.

We do not know what we and the world will face during this time of great migration and transfers of wealth and power. Churchill went to the battleground with words. The weapons of our warfare are mighty and spiritual.

**<sup>3</sup>For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: <sup>4</sup>(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) <sup>5</sup>Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; <sup>6</sup>And having a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled. 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 KJV**

With that in mind, let's pray to the Living God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to Him who is our Heavenly Father, and pray with confidence and boldness to the One to Whom nations must bow. Let us come in all humility, resisting the devil, and knowing that God grants grace to the humble, and the devil flees. Amen.

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