



What Can We Learn from the Persecuted Church?

Guest Speaker

INTRODUCTION

"The suffering of Christ"

- Accomplishing His mission (1 Peter 3:18) - Christ
- Accomplishing His commission (Colossians 1:24) - Us

- I. Our **perspective** in facing "*the sufferings of Christ*" - Acts 14:21-23

Expect it!

Jesus' teaching - Matthew 5:11-12, 10:1-42 (37-38); John 15:20 (18-25)

Paul's suffering - Acts 9:15; 2 Corinthians 4:7-15, 6:3-10, 11:23-29

- II. Our **privilege** in participating in "*the sufferings of Christ*" - Philippians 1:29

Esteem it!

- III. Our **purpose** in regard to "*the sufferings of Christ*" - Philippians 3:10

Embrace it!

Peter's suffering - John 21:18-23; Acts 4:5-22, 5:17-42, 8:2, 12:1-7

- IV. Our **praise** in the midst of "*the sufferings of Christ*" - 1 Peter 4:12-19

Exult in it!

- V. Our **pattern** in the midst of "*the sufferings of Christ*" - 1 Peter 2:21-22 (1 Peter 3:8-9, 10-12)

Emulate Him!

Miss something? Completed sermon notes are available online. Binders to organize your sermon notes are available at the upstairs Welcome Desk.

THE ONE THING:

Following Christ includes **participating** in the sufferings of His Church

Our Perspective ***Expect it!***

Our Privilege ***Esteem it!***

Our Purpose ***Embrace it!***

Our Praise ***Exult in it!***

Our Pattern **Emulate Him!**

NEXT STEPS

- Memorize Matthew 5:10-12.
- Read online about the worldwide persecution of the Church [vom.com; persecution.com; opendoors.org.au]
- Pray for and engage in a specific group of persecuted Christians, in light of Hebrews 13:3.
- Embrace the idea of personally suffering for Christ in your life.

NOTES FOR PERSONAL & SMALL GROUP STUDY

KEEPING IT REAL

- 1 What form of persecution are Christians in our country/communities facing today? Have you suffered for publicly identifying with Christ?

LOOK AT THE BOOK

- 2 Which passage(s) from today's five major points encouraged or challenged you the most? Why?

- 3 What are the benefits and rewards of suffering for following Christ (Matthew 5:10-12)?

TAKING IT FURTHER

- 4 How might the Lord lead you to have a part in the lives of those who are being persecuted for Christ? See Hebrews 13:3

-*Watch the excellent DVD *The Insanity of God* in the church library.

WORSHIP LYRICS

If you'd like to spend more time with the lyrics from any of the songs this morning, please click on the song title below to continue worshipping.

[Holy Spirit](#)

[Great Things](#)

[In Christ Alone](#)

[Is He Worthy](#)

[Good Shepherd](#)

[I Have Decided to Follow Jesus](#)