

Pastor Clifford
January 24th, 2021

The Book of Hebrews: Chapter 10c

(Blue text is Hebrews)

Hebrews 10

32 "But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings,

- **Colossians 1:24** "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church,"

The 2019 World Watch List report is based on comprehensive and investigative research of 150 countries where Christians are persecuted for their faith. Each year, our research reveals telling numbers and statistics that give us a glimpse at the depth, prevalence and widespread reach of the persecution believers endure.

Below, we share a quick glance at the numbers during the 2019 reporting period (from Oct. 31, 2017, to November 1, 2018). But by no means do the numbers tell the full story. Each fact and figure represent real people with real lives, families, jobs, churches—fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, sons, daughters—who every day make the dangerous choice to believe in and trust Jesus.

(from October 31, 2017 to November 1, 2018)

People from different religions, various organizations gathered at the Indonesian Christian Church to pray for the nation in light of the 2018 church bombing in Surabaya. Every month, 105 churches are attacked, vandalized or burned in the top 50 countries on the World Watch List.

- **245 Million:** In the top 50 World Watch List countries alone, 245 million Christians in the world experience high levels of persecution for their choice to follow Christ.
- **1 in 9:** Christians worldwide experience high levels of persecution
- **14%:** The rise in the number of Christians in the top 50 countries on the 2019 World Watch List (WWL) who experience high levels of persecution.
- **4,136:** Christians killed for faith-related reasons in the top 50 WWL countries.
- **2,625:** Christians detained without trial, arrested, sentenced and imprisoned in the top 50 WWL countries.
- **1,266:** churches or Christian buildings attacked in the top 50 WWL countries.
- **7 out of 9:** In seven of the countries in the World Watch List's top 10, the primary cause of persecution is Islamic oppression.
- **11:** countries scoring in the "extreme" level for their persecution of Christians. Five years ago, North Korea was the only one.
- **18:** Consecutive years North Korea has ranked No. 1 as the world's most dangerous place for Christians.

Every Month

105: churches attacked, burned or vandalized each month, in the top 50 WWL countries

Every Day

11: Christians killed every day for their faith, in the top 50 WWL countries.

By the Continent

- **1 out of 6:** Christians in Africa that experience high levels of persecution.
- **1 out of 3:** Christians in Asia that experience high levels of persecution.
- **1 out of 21:** Christians in South America who experience high levels of persecution.

³³ partly by being made a public spectacle through insults and distress, and partly by becoming companions with those who were so treated.

1. They were made a public spectacle

- **1 Corinthians 4:9** "For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men."

2. They became companions with them.

- **Galatians 2:11-14** "But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. **12** For prior to the coming of some men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he *began* to withdraw and separate himself, fearing those from the circumcision. **13** The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was

carried away by their hypocrisy. **14** But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, "If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how *is it that* you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

34 ...knowing that you have for yourselves a better and lasting possession.

- **Hebrews 13:14** "For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come."
- **Philippians 3:20** "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."
- **1 Peter 2:11-12** "Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation."
- **2 Corinthians 4:16-18** "Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer person is decaying, yet our inner *person* is being renewed day by day. **17** For our momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, **18** while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

35 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance,

Now we have confidence

- **1 John 5:13-15** "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. **14** This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. **15** And if we know that He hears us *in whatever we ask*, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him."

Confidence to enter the holy place

- **2 Corinthians 3:16** "But whenever *someone* turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away."

, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

- **Philippians 3:12-16** "Not that I have already grasped *it all* or have already become perfect, but I press on if I may also take hold of that for which I was even taken hold of by Christ Jesus. **13** Brothers *and sisters*, I do not regard myself as having taken hold of *it yet*; but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead, **14** I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. **15** Therefore, all who are mature, let's have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that to you as well; **16** however, let's keep living by that same *standard* to which we have attained."
- **2 Timothy 4:7-8** "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will

award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

- **1 Peter 5:4** "And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory."
- **Revelation 22:12** "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done."

37 FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE,

HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY.

38 BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE WILL LIVE BY FAITH;

AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.

- **Luke 18:1-8** Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not become discouraged, **2** saying, "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect *any* person. **3** Now there was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me justice against my opponent.' **4** For a while he was unwilling; but later he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect *any* person, **5** yet because this widow is bothering me, I will give her justice; otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.'" **6** And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unrighteous judge *said*; **7** now, will God not bring about justice for His elect who cry out to Him day and night, and will He delay long for them? **8** I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

39 But we are not among those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith for the safekeeping of the soul.