

That You May Have Life In His Name - John 15:18-16:15

Pastor Matt Dean

Jesus – the most polarizing person in world history. Most loved or hated.
 Why does the world hate Jesus? The reality of sin and offer for forgiveness.
 How do Christians respond to hatred and opposition? How did Jesus?
 How does the Holy Spirit help followers of Jesus?

Among all known Christians killed for their faith in Jesus last year, 80% of them were in Nigeria. Intersociety reported that over the past 14 years, 52,250 people have been killed in Nigeria for their Christian faith, largely due to persecution from Fulani militants¹

Pakistan - Rev. Eleazar Sidhu, lead pastor for the Presbyterian Church in Kukranwala village within the Faisalabad District, was allegedly targeted by members of the far-right Islamic extremist political party Tahreek-e-Labbaik after he removed graffiti from his church walls on Aug. 28. “While I was conducting my regular morning prayers in church, a woman from the congregation informed me that she had noticed graffiti on the church walls, including symbols of the Islamic extremist party, Tehreek-e-Labbaik,” said Pastor Sidhu. “I immediately called the police, who helped me whitewash the walls and register my case against the perpetrators.” This enraged the extremist group and members began to follow and harass Pastor Sidhu. Three days later, two bearded men threatened him as he returned from picking up his son. The men said they would remove him from the world the same way he erased the graffiti with the Islamic inscriptions. On Sunday, Sept. 8, Pastor Sidhu was returning home with his assistant after pastoral visits when the same two men stopped him on his motorcycle. This time they demanded that they recite the Islamic Kalima or profession of faith. The pastor refused and recited the Apostle’s Creed instead. This angered the assailants even more, and one of them shouted “Labaik ya rasool!” before shooting Pastor Sidhu in the shoulder. He was taken to a hospital where doctors successfully removed the bullet, and he continues to recover.²

5/30/2023 North Korea (International Christian Concern)—North Korea has reportedly sentenced a two-year-old to life in prison after his parents were arrested for possessing a Bible, according to the U.S. State Department’s International Religious Freedom Report 2022.³

2022 - Afghanistan was the leading persecutor of Christians

In the United States — many Christians face numerous cultural pressures to compromise or conform to liberal, godless, progressive agendas, especially in the marketplace and academia where to trust in Jesus is often met with insult and ostracism.

Context Reminder: the night of his betrayal - just hours before his arrest.

¹ <https://www.persecution.org/2023/09/11/90-percent-of-the-5500-christians-killed-in-2022-were-nigerian/>

² <https://www.persecution.org/2023/09/06/pastor-shot-in-aftermath-of-pakistan-unrest/>

³ <https://www.persecution.org/2023/05/30/bible-possession-leads-to-north-korean-toddler-parents-imprisoned-for-life/>

The Hatred of the World

¹⁸ “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ Whoever hates me hates my Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. ²⁵ But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: ‘They hated me without a cause.’

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- Jesus says – when the world (humanity living in open rebellion against God)...
When the world hates you – remember it hated me first.
 - Jesus says you are not of the world – to follow Jesus means no longer living in rebellion against God, but in union, in fellowship with God.
 - Jesus says you are chosen out of the world - to live unlike the world – therefore the world hates you.
 - Jesus says if they persecute you, remember they persecuted me
 - Jesus says people have no excuse for their sin – we don't either, but we do have a Savior.

²⁶ “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

Jesus says the Holy Spirit – sent from the Father – will bear witness about Jesus.
Jesus says you will also bear witness about Him.

16 “I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. ² They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. ³ And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. ⁴ But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

Matthew was beheaded by sword
 Mark died in Alexandria after he was dragged through the streets
 Luke was hanged on a olive tree in Greece
 John was boiled in oil
 Peter was crucified upside down in Rome
 James was beheaded in Jerusalem
 The other James was thrown down and beaten with clubs
 Philip was hanged
 Bartholomew was whipped and beaten to death
 Andrew was crucified and preached to his persecutors at the top of his voice
 Thomas was speared to death
 Jude was executed by arrows
 Matthias was stone and beheaded
 Barnabas was stoned and beheaded

In the last century – more Christians have been killed for their faith in Jesus than in any previous century in history.⁴

The Work of the Holy Spirit

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵ But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷ Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

¹² “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

(Jn 15:18–16:15)

The Holy Spirit will convict the world concerning sin:

- Sin because they do not believe in Jesus
- Righteousness because Jesus will be resurrected from death
- Judgment because the ruler of this world is judged

⁴ <https://www.persecution.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/2022-Persecutor-of-the-Year-Awards-compressed.pdf>

- The Holy Spirit will guide you into all the truth
- The Holy Spirit will not speak on his own authority - what He hears He will speak, He will declare to you that things that are to come
- The Holy Spirit will glorify Jesus
- The Holy Spirit will take what is mine and declare it to you
- The Holy Spirit shines the light on the words and life of Jesus

These two things we must know:

Those who trust in Jesus will face adversity, opposition, and hatred from the world.

And.

Those who trust in Jesus have the Holy Spirit, to comfort, guide, lead, and direct – pointing back to the life and truth of who Jesus is.

Treasure in Jars of Clay

⁵ For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. ¹¹ For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

(2 Co 4:5–11)

"Nothing puts life into men like a dying Savior. Get you close to Christ, and carry the remembrance of him about you from day to day, and you will do right royal deeds. Come, let us slay sin, for Christ was slain. Come, let us bury all our pride, for Christ was buried. Come, let us rise to newness of life, for Christ has risen. Let us be united with our crucified Lord in his one great object – let us live and die with him, and then every action of our lives will be very beautiful." (Spurgeon)

What does it mean to have life in His name?

To remember, as we place our faith and trust in Jesus, that when opposition and hatred comes our way, Jesus said this WILL happen and to remember, that the Holy Spirit will help us by bringing to mind, the words and works of Jesus.