

# A Tribute to Those of Whom the World is Not Worthy

Part 2

12/2/12

**Series: International Ministry and Mission**

**Today's teaching: How to Minister to Our Persecuted Family**

## 1. Remember

**Hebrews 13:3** Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body.

**Colossians 4:18** I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my imprisonment. Grace be with you.

**2 Corinthians 1:8** For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came *to us* in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life;

Web Resources:

International Christian Concern	<a href="http://persecution.org">persecution.org</a>
Open Doors	<a href="http://opendoorsusa.org">opendoorsusa.org</a>
Voice of the Martyrs	<a href="http://persecution.com">persecution.com</a>

## 2. Honor

**Hebrews 11:36** and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment.

<sup>37</sup> They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated

<sup>38</sup> (***men of whom the world was not worthy***)...

**Matthew 10:17** "But beware of men; for they will deliver you up to *the* courts, and scourge you in their synagogues;

<sup>18</sup> and you shall even be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.

<sup>19</sup> "But when they deliver you up, do not become anxious about how or what you will speak; for it shall be given you in that hour what you are to speak.

<sup>20</sup> "For it is not you who speak, but *it is* the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

### 3. Pray

**Philippians 1:18** What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice, yes, and I will rejoice.

<sup>19</sup> For I know that this shall turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

**Philemon 1:22** And at the same time also prepare me a lodging; for I hope that through your prayers I shall be given to you.

<sup>23</sup> Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you,

**Romans 15:30** Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me,

<sup>31</sup> that I may be delivered from those who are disobedient in Judea...

**Ephesians 6:19** and *pray* on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,

<sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in *proclaiming* it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

**Colossians 4:2** Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with *an attitude of* thanksgiving;

<sup>3</sup> praying at the same time for us as well, that God may open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned;

<sup>4</sup> in order that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.

**1 Timothy 2:1** First of all, then, I urge that entreaties *and* prayers, petitions *and* thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men,

<sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

<sup>3</sup> This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

<sup>4</sup> who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

**Acts 12:5** So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God.

### 4. Write

**Hebrews 10:32** But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings,

<sup>33</sup> partly, by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated.

<sup>34</sup> For you showed sympathy to the prisoners...

### 5. Advocate

**Proverbs 31:8** Open your mouth for the dumb, For the rights of all the unfortunate.

<sup>9</sup> Open your mouth, judge righteously, And defend the rights of the afflicted and needy.

**Acts 16:35** Now when day came, the chief magistrates sent their policemen, saying, "Release those men."

<sup>36</sup> And the jailer reported these words to Paul, *saying*, "The chief magistrates have sent to release you. Now therefore, come out and go in peace."

<sup>37</sup> But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us in public without trial, men who are Romans, and have thrown us into prison; and now are they sending us away secretly? No indeed! But let them come themselves and bring us out."

<sup>38</sup> And the policemen reported these words to the chief magistrates. And they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans,

<sup>39</sup> and they came and appealed to them, and when they had brought them out, they kept begging them to leave the city.

<sup>40</sup> And they went out of the prison and entered *the house of Lydia*, and when they saw the brethren, they encouraged them and departed.

**Acts 22:24** the commander ordered him to be brought into the barracks, stating that he should be examined by scourging so that he might find out the reason why they were shouting against him that way.

<sup>25</sup> And when they stretched him out with thongs, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, "Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman and uncondemned?"

**Acts 23:16** But the son of Paul's sister heard of their ambush, and he came and entered the barracks and told Paul.

<sup>17</sup> And Paul called one of the centurions to him and said, "Lead this young man to the commander, for he has something to report to him."

## 6. Support

**James 1:27** This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of *our* God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, *and* to keep oneself unstained by the world.

**James 2:15** If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food,

<sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that?

<sup>17</sup> Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself.

## 7. Exemplify

(Make their ministry to us count)

**Philippians 1:12** Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel,

<sup>13</sup> so that my imprisonment in *the cause of Christ* has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else,

<sup>14</sup> and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.