

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

Part 3

12/9/12

**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***)...

## 3. Pray

**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...

## 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.

**Philippians 1:27** Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ; so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

<sup>28</sup> in no way alarmed by *your* opponents-- which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that *too*, from God.

<sup>29</sup> For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

<sup>30</sup> experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear *to be* in me.

**2:1** If therefore there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion,

<sup>2</sup> make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

<sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself;

<sup>4</sup> do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

<sup>5</sup> Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup> who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

<sup>7</sup> but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men.

<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup> and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup> So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;

<sup>13</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

All Scripture: NASV