



The Sanctity of The Saints

Including the Persecuted

3/3/19

The sanctity of the saints

1 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, called as an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,

² to the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their *Lord* and ours

1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?

¹⁷ ...the temple of God is **holy**, and that is what you are.

1 Corinthians 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the **saints**, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also.

2 Timothy 1:8 ...Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me His prisoner; but join with *me* in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God,

⁹ who has saved us, and called us with **a holy calling**, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

Why is there a persecuted church?

Matthew 10:16 "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; therefore be shrewd as serpents, and innocent as doves.

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

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

¹⁹ "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.

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

²¹ "And brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death.

²² "And you will be hated by all on account of My name...

Examples: Jesus on trial; Acts 4,5,6-8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, etc.

Where is the persecuted church?

See the *Open Doors Watch List* - www.OpenDoorsUSA.org and click on the "World Watch List" tab.

Why a persecuted church team?

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.

2 Corinthians 11:28 ...there is the daily pressure upon me of concern for all the churches.

Added to **Romans 9:2** ...I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart.

³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed, *separated* from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh,

Colossians 2:1 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf, and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face,...

... ⁵ For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ.

How can we help the persecuted church?

1. View the persecuted church as fellow saints set apart by God for this ministry

1 Corinthians 12:26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if *one* member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

²⁷ Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

2. Listen and study

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;

⁹ indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves in order that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead;

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,

³¹ 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,

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

4. Advocate

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

¹⁷ 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."

5. Support

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

¹⁴ Nevertheless, you have done well to share *with me* in my affliction.

¹⁵ And you yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone;

¹⁶ for even in Thessalonica you sent *a gift* more than once for my needs.

¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account.

6. Speak the word of God without fear

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

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

¹⁴ 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.

7. Join the persecuted church team

8. Consider a career in ministry to the persecuted

Philippians 2:19 But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, so that I also may be encouraged when I learn of your condition.

²⁰ For I have no one *else* of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare.

²¹ For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus.