

**General Topics :: Sing a Little Louder****Sing a Little Louder , on: 2018/2/16 15:39**

<https://youtu.be/ofcs9Y7qL4s>

Don't excuse yourself by saying, "Look, we didn't know." For God understands all hearts, and he sees you. He who guards your soul knows you knew. He will repay all people as their actions deserve.
Prov. 24:12 NLT

Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless.
Not to speak is to speak.
Not to act is to act.
...Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice.
Prov.31:8-9 NLT

Posted by Blaine Scogin

Re: Sing a Little Louder - posted by TakeUptheCross, on: 2018/2/18 7:50

Oh!

"You cannot photograph suffering. Only it's results!" - Corrie Ten Boom

You know, I think that it is a big problem, when we (the Christians, the church) are trying to be "modern", to follow the spirit of the age. Isn't this the reason why the official church supported the government? If we are following, who is going to correct society?

May the Lord have mercy on us!

Re: , on: 2018/5/31 10:24

I will let the video speak for itself.

<https://youtu.be/ofcs9Y7qL4s>

Blaine

Re: The Global Persecuted Church and the Silence of Christians , on: 2018/5/31 13:57

The Global Persecuted Church and the Silence of Christians

Greg Strand

October 4, 2013

Christians in the Middle East and Africa are being martyred for their faith. The numbers and the atrocities are astronomical. One incident with few deaths would be too many. But the incidences of this "slaughter" recur with the deaths of many Christians. And many of these murders are committed by Muslims.

Kirsten Powers, "A Global Slaughter of Christians, but America's Churches Stay Silent," writes of these atrocities and impugns the church in the America for its deafening silence.

Christians in the Middle East and Africa are being slaughtered, tortured, raped, kidnapped, beheaded, and forced to flee the birthplace of Christianity. One would think this horror might be consuming the pulpits and pews of American churches.

s. Not so. The silence has been nearly deafening.

Powers refers to the book Saturday People, Sunday People, the title which is an Islamist slogan, "First Saturday People, then the Sunday People." To the Muslim this means that "first we kill the Jews, then we kill the Christians."

The recent attacks on this Sunday People, Christians, have occurred in Egypt, Pakistan, Kenya, and Syria. These brutal attacks on Christians because they are Christians ought to be condemned, particularly by Western Christians. Christians in the West are able to collaborate and cooperate on moral and ethical issues of concern. "Yet," writes Powers, "religious persecution appears not to have grabbed their attention, despite the worldwide media coverage of the atrocities against Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East."

Molly Hemingway also addressed this vital and important issue: "Can We Finally Start Talking About the Global Persecution of Christians?" She notes, quoting from Persecuted: The Global Assault on Christians,

Christians are the single most widely persecuted religious group in the world today. This is confirmed in studies by sources as diverse as the Vatican, Open Doors, the Pew Research Center, Commentary, Newsweek and the Economist. According to one estimate, by the Catholic Bishops' Conferences of the European Community, 75 percent of acts of religious intolerance are directed against Christians.

Hemingway points to the silence of the media to address these heinous acts of evil committed against Christians, and then if/when they do publish anything about them, their explanations of the evil acts are often cloaked in politically correct language so as not speak anything negative against Islam. In fact, not only is there a fear of saying anything negative about Islam, the general tendency is to say something positive that may be partially true or not true at all.

Not only is this the general approach of the media, it is also of politicians. Regarding the commonly stated solution to this Muslim violence against Christians as an aberration because Islam is a religion of peace, Hemingway notes,

One problem with this approach, and I'm not even talking about the 1300 years of history that speaks to the use of violence in pursuit of the spread of Islam, is that the politicians claiming Islam is nothing more than a peaceful religion usually aren't exegetical experts.

In order for a conversation to occur regarding the "persecution of Christians and others at the hands of Muslims," Hemingway lays some groundwork for journalists, politicians and the Christian Church. I conclude with her words to the church.

However much we may wish Muslim violence against Christians would resolve itself or go away, being in denial serves no purpose. To combat the persecution of Christians and other religious minorities, we must first acknowledge its existence. And we need to be clear about exactly who is perpetrating violence against Christians and what is motivating them.

As Dietrich Bonhoeffer believed, lived, wrote and died, "Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."

God has the last word on this matter as recorded in the Word.

"Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep" (Rom. 12:15).

"If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together" (1 Cor. 12:26).

"Remember . . . those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body" (Heb. 13:3).

Posted by Blaine Scogin

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2018/5/31 14:18

Thanks

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2018/5/31 17:40

If God wants them tortured and killed why should we be praying about it?

No, our default position must be that God does not want that and therefore we should be praying against it. And I certainly don't think it is improper to pray that doom will come to their persecutors. Maybe if God turns the heat up on the persecutors they'll go running to Him. If not, better dead than alive. But ultimately that is God's call.

Re: , on: 2018/5/31 17:56

/// All the rest of you can set by and read this horrible stuff posted day after day, but I'm not going to do it.///

I am sure that was the attitude portrayed in the German church as the death trains rolled by and the Jews crying out for help.

Honestly the vitriolic hatred displayed toward our persecuted brothers and sisters in this forum is nothing short of surprising.

God have mercy on us all.

Blaine

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2018/5/31 18:01

Nice try Bear but it won't wash here. No one here ever has showed one ounce of vitriolic hatred toward our persecuted brothers and sisters. That is only part of your vain imagination.

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2018/5/31 18:08

Thanks

Re: , on: 2018/5/31 19:27

I beg to differ. There is a disdain by many in the forum for our our persecuted brethren. But then that is simply a disdain by many for the cross of Christ.

The message of the persecuted is the message of the cross. A cross that is rejected by many. A cross we are commanded to pick up and carry.

Blaine

Re: Bear - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2018/5/31 19:36

Thanks

Re: - posted by Gloryandgrace (), on: 2018/5/31 20:27

Sing a little louder;

That video is in my opinion an accurate display of Christians living in fear.

Whether it be cattle cars full of Jews or Bus loads of sinners going to a football game it rightly depicts so many Christians who cannot for fear or will not for comfort sake venture their safety or comfort for those in dire circumstances.

The old man's empathy for the Jews on their way to death camps comes across very strong. The Old man's vacancy from expressing faith, prayer or trust in God is the antithesis of biblical Christianity. We are not powerless, though we may feel like it. We are not helpless though in our own strength we could not conquer such a fascist regime.

I get the point of the video, doing nothing, sitting in silence and fear...and then drowning out the cries for help with 'louder singing' is just one of the ways to avoid the feelings the Jews had. I was hoping to see them all bow in prayer, I was hoping for some act of faith, but none was shown. The little boy's curiosity and concern drew him face to face with a victim; I understand tears are all that can be done for the Jews, but there were other men, those who hazarded estate, freedom and their life for the sake of these persecuted ones.

The video... as powerful a statement as it made was packed with emotional desperation as it was devoid of true Christian compassion. Faith operates by love, but human empathy however strong and poignant the depiction has nothing to offer but inability. This video pointing at Christians rose no higher than the fearful Christians sitting in the pews.

It pointed a finger at those pew-sitters and there be few that would justify them. But what the video didn't offer was a depiction of Jesus overcoming fears, overcoming a march to death. We see humanity in its darkest moments, evil triumphing in its progress toward dehumanizing everything with godless ideologies...but that darkness being depicted and the internal condemnation we feel towards turning a blind eye to the persecuted...or the lost, or the destitute and poor is at best legalism. The consistent Catholic cannot escape it.

I rejoice in such a powerful video demonstrating the failings of human nature, but I hate it in the same measure in that Jesus is left out of the equation, he is absent from the hearts of a congregation where the word is straightforwardly being preached. Even the preacher couldn't shift gears away from the 'order of service' to pray or direct the congregation to render aid to others.

In the end, I get a powerful gut punch with nothing more said to me than..."haunting nightmares of fear and powerlessness". This is not what Jesus taught his disciples or are we to teach one another.

For all its emotional power and poignant depiction of suffering...we Christians can do nothing without a resurrection, a new life, a new hope, a new power. This was devoid of that power and as such makes the Christian feel bad for himself or point his finger at others. The gospel message was missing.

Re: - posted by drifter (), on: 2018/5/31 20:47

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John 13:35

Jesus Christ loves all Christians in every country, persecuted or not. The mark of a true disciple is love; love for God and one another. Blaine, there are many true Christians in America and Canada (I'm one of them). Every Christian is called to deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Jesus. In some countries, physical persecution and martyrdom is more common than others. That is their cross. In western countries, Christians face loneliness, isolation, family disowning them, gossip, slander etc. Even if a Christian is never beaten, tortured or martyred it does not make them any less of a child of God.

I support the church in restricted nations, but exactly how is between me and Jesus. Please remember the Holy Spirit will never browbeat or condemn us, He always convicts us in love.

Brother, might I suggest you take a couple of days break from sermonindex (maybe all social media)? Just to get alone with Jesus and hear His voice, feel His love, just put everything else aside, all your cares, spend time in His presence and let Him renew you.

God bless you friend.

Re: - posted by Gloryandgrace (), on: 2018/5/31 20:55

What makes me want to pray? Is it the terrified looks of those sitting in the pews, knowing Jews are in those cattle cars? Or is it the likes of Corrie Ten Boom and her testimonies of faith, victory and answered prayer? Was it the regretful old man that could not get past his shame and guilt over saying nothing, powerless against the Nazis? Or is it Dietrich Bonhoeffer and his testimony and his sermons, standing against tyranny?

The point of such demonic and inhuman cruelty is to erase hope from the soul of man. It's either join-em or be killed by-em, that's what men do when hope of anything better is ripped from their hearts.

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As Corrie Ten Boom was quoted earlier..."you cannot photograph suffering only its results."

With no offense to Corrie intended I would add "you cannot photograph faithlessness, only its results"

We do not draw faith from faithlessness, or hope from hopelessness. What we can do is see what faithlessness and hopelessness does in the face of barbarity and cruelty...It chooses to save its own skin.

It's because of the acts of Christians in the midst of these terrible circumstances we can know that God answers prayer, God hears and supplies, God cares and loves. It's the Corries and the Bonhoeffer's among many more the spur us on to prayer and intercessions.

I'm not hating on the video for those of you who cannot see my point, I am saying a message/video like that which leaves out the gospel cannot obtain the righteous life it implies is needed.

Re: Nigel and Marvin. - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2018/5/31 21:06

Thanks

Re: , on: 2018/5/31 22:56

A few will hear the cry of the persecuted. A few will seek the Lord in terms of how to come and strengthen them. To strengthen those in the shadow of the cross.

But many will turn a deaf ear and be absorbed to their American, materialistic lifestyle. Basically this is the American evangelical church. What our brother Frank calls Christendom. They will reject the cross of Christ.

All I can say is God have mercy on the American Church who remains silent and deaf to the cries of their persecuted brethren.

Blaine

Re: , on: 2018/5/31 23:10

If I remember correctly it was only a few out of the German Lutheran Church who formed the Confessing Church. This was the church that Dietrich Bonhoeffer was part of. This was the church that spoke out against the slaughter of the Jews. If I remember the accounts correctly many of their pastors and members were imprisoned and martyred by the Nazi regime.

But it has been those few saints who have heard the call of Jesus to go outside the camp and bear the disgrace of Jesus on his cross. It has been those few saints who have heard the call to come out of Babylon and be separate. These saints go by names such as Confessing Church, Remnant Church, Pilgrim Church, etc. But they are known by one thing. They have left the organized church to embrace the cross of Christ.

I might add that such saints who have left the organized church have been persecuted by the organized church. This happened with Anabaptist brethren during the Reformation. These saints were persecuted by both the Catholic and the Reformed Church. Sometimes the armies of the Catholic and the Reformed churches would come together to persecute and kill the Anabaptists.

I believe in the not-too-distant future it will be in the organized Evangelical American church that will persecute the true saints of God. Those who have left the camp and embraced the cross of Jesus. But it will be these few who will cry out for their persecuted brothers and sisters. For they have entered into the sufferings of Christ.

But then only a few will understand what I'm posting here.

Blaine

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Re: , on: 2018/6/1 13:05

Bro Bill writes.....

"I've prayed about this and prayed about it, and God has spoken to me and told me it's ok to get upset and let your feelings be heard, so I posted my feelings, and if I'm wrong, blame God!"

Bill, I urge you take this back. "Blame God," really?? God told you it was okay to indulge your flesh? That is scary brother. Take it or leave it. At the very least God should be left out of our petty squabbles.....bro Frank

Maybe the moderator should shut this down before anything else is said and blamed on God.

Re: Brother Frank - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2018/6/1 13:58

Thanks

Re: , on: 2018/6/1 15:52

///Â

Sorry, my last post was pretty vague, what I meant to say was, please re-read my other post and tell me if there's anything in that post, that shows ANY disdain for any of the persecuted brothers and sisters.

here it is again, now read it very slowly.

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///Â

IÂ believe everyone of the ridiculous persecution threads should be close down, they do NOTHING to edify the body of Christ.

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I believe a disdain has been shown to our brothers and sisters in the shadow of the cross.

Dear God have mercy on those who despise your persecuted bride.

Blaine

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2018/6/1 16:08

Thanks

Re: , on: 2018/6/1 19:21

Bro Bill, surely you must know it is wrong to pretend to speak to God when you are surely speaking to bro Blaine, and then to use scripture in a vendetta? Can I make a suggestion? Get a hold of Blaine's telephone number and speak this out. Do not let Satan tear you down or tear down the Lord's witness in you. It is never right, no matter who we are, so speak as if we are praying, but what we are actually doing is settling scores or teaching lessons or showing how much knowledge we have. This is the Living God we are talking about brothers! Nothing good can come from this exchange. Our last order as brothers and sisters in Christ is to agree to disagree and let the Holy Spirit do His work.

There is a vital difference between condemnation and conviction, it often takes the Holy Spirit's discernment to recognize the difference.....bro Frank

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2018/6/1 19:46

Thanks

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Re: - posted by ManOfGod (), on: 2018/6/1 19:56

Blaine, thank you for posting this video. I appreciate your burden for the church. To be frank, I need to have more of a burden myself for the persecuted church and souls in general. The Bible says woe unto them that are at ease in zion. I'm afraid ALOT of the church(not all) is singing loudly while millions of babies are being aborted and we are facing the greatest drug epidemic of our time. NOT to mention rampant immorality, homosexuality, divorce, broken homes, etc.

God commanded His watchmen to warn the people when the sword was coming on the land. If the watchmen cried and the people didn't listen then the blood was on their hands. If the watchmen didn't cry out and warn then the blood would be upon the watchmen's hands.

Sadly, many watchmen today have refused to cry out for fear of consequences. Fearful they may upset someone, lose their job, lose tithe payers, etc.

THAT BEING SAID I want to say in love just because you may not see or hear others crying out or speaking up doesn't mean that no one else is. Don't let the devil discourage you or make you feel like you are by yourself.

The prophet Elijah was one of the greatest men in the Bible. He saw God send fire down from heaven, he saw the rain come after 3 and a half years and many miracles. But as great as He was, Satan had convinced him he was by himself.

I even I only remain a prophet in the Lord.

Satan had convinced him nobody else believed like he did, had the burden he did. But what did God say?

I have reserved 7000 unto myself that have not bowed the knee nor kissed the face of Baal.

Elijah wasn't alone. My point? Don't feel like because you don't see people crying out against sin or speaking up for the church it means you are by yourself or no one is doing what you do

I've enjoyed everyone's insight on this thread. Hope this encourages someone.

Re: - posted by SteveHale (), on: 2018/6/1 22:59

Amen Elijah, good balanced response.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2018/6/2 6:31

This thread is locked.