

PERSECUTED

Sunday Oct 11, 2015. SL AM Service

KINGDOM CAUSE image from camp

Kingdom Cause

Starts with the conviction that King Jesus reigns over all the earth.

The cause that believers live for and die for is that Jesus' Kingdom will overcome and destroy the Kingdom of darkness in this world.

Smaller image of kingdom cause

Picture of facebook icon

Jesus and persecution

Matthew 5:8

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Persecution authenticates our faith in Jesus

Sophie Scholl: Martyred for speaking up



“What we wrote and said is also believed by many others. They just don’t dare express themselves”
Sophie Scholl



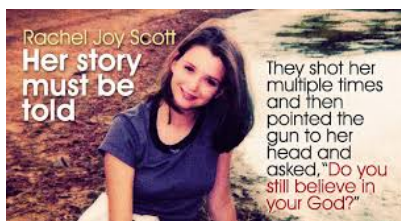
“How can we expect righteousness to prevail if there is hardly anyone to give themselves up for a righteous cause. Such a fine sunny day but what does my death matter, if through us, 1000s of people are awakened and stirred to action.” Sophie Scholl

The future of Christianity: Refined by persecution

2014	4,344
2013	2,123
2012	1,201

Christianity is the only religion that grows, multiplies and expands under persecution.

Rachel Joy Scott: She said yes!



“I am not going to apologize for speaking the Name of Jesus, I am not going to justify my faith to them, and I am not going to hide the light that God has put into me. If I have to sacrifice everything...I will.” Rachel Joy Scott

May 2nd
This will be my last year Lord.
I have gotten what I can.
Thank you.



Persecution, the foundations of Christian faith

2 Corinthians 4:8

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. 10 We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

Persecution is a fundamental part of true Christianity and the true church

Matthew 13:21

(Kingdom message sown on rocky ground, received with joy but...) But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or **persecution** comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

Persecution proves depths of the roots in Jesus

Brother Yun



“The world can do nothing to a Christian who has no fear of man.”

“On many occasions I have been asked if I think persecution will come to the Western church. My answer might surprise you. I believe that if you find yourself enslaved inside a controlling church structure of legalism and bondage, then you are already being persecuted! So many Christians seem impossibly distracted from hearing God's voice. Instead of listening to that still, small voice that brings true peace and joy, they blindly follow the voices of mainstream religion. The worst kind of persecution for a Christian is when you are separated from the joy and presence of the Holy Spirit.”

Come follow me: The cost of following Jesus

Matthew 10:37

“Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 Whoever does not **take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me.** Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever **loses their life for my sake will find it.**”

The cost of following Jesus is the loss of ones' earthly life in order to find ones' heavenly life

Without cost following Jesus has no value

A living Martyr: Why would anyone endure persecution?

Philippians 1:20-21

I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Live = Christ

Die = gain

To die to self, this life and this earth is to live for Christ and His Kingdom Cause

Picture of the disciples

It is not the punishment but the cause that makes the martyr. Saint Augustine

Activation

Matthew 24:12

Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

Persecution and the cost of losing self-life causes many to withdraw their love from Jesus

What cost are you willing to pay to follow Jesus better?