



First Christian Reformed Church of Lynden
From Generation to Generation for the Glory of God
God's precious and exceedingly great promises in hard times

*Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom,
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

Scripture

Reflections from Scripture on Persecution and the Persecuted Church.

Psalm 31:14-15 But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, "You are my God."

My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!

Matthew 5:10-12 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:43-44 You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

John 15:18-20 "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you."

Acts 14:22 ... strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

Romans 8:35-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 12:14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

Ephesians 6:18-20 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

II Timothy 3:12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

Hebrews 13:3 Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.

I Peter 4:12-16 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

Revelation 2:10 Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Song

Psalm 59:16 But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.

[You can Google the hymn to hear it if you would like to sing along.]

Let Me Be a Blessing

Let me be a blessing to my suffering friends,
Sharing in their burdens even to the end.
In the midst of trials and their darkest fears,
Let me be a comfort, sharing in their tears.

Since we are one body, let me not neglect
To stand with the Christians whom the world rejects.
As they are ill-treated, wearing martyrs' chains,
In my pray'r and fasting let me share their pain.

From the truths of Scripture let me learn to paint
Hope-inspiring portraits for the suffering saint.
Let me point the sufferer to the glorious day
When our tears and anguish shall be swept away.

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Prayer

II Chronicles 7:14 If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Pray that whatever their circumstances, God will give persecuted Christians the right words.

Pray that persecuted Christians will understand and find peace in the sufficiency of God's grace, even in their weaknesses.

Pray that Christians facing hardship will draw from a source of power larger than themselves.

Pray God would be present with persecuted Christians in their hardship, protecting them according to His will.

Pray their witness would inspire those who seek to harm them.

Pray that God would sustain the faith of persecuted believers so that they might faithfully endure trials and suffering for Christ's sake.

Pray for the spread of the gospel through persecuted believers, asking God to use their words and their faithfulness to bear witness to the gospel.

Pray that believers in persecuted areas might be able to experience the blessing of gathering with other believers for worship, as well as the regular fellowship and equipping of the church.

Pray that God would give persecuted pastors courage, wisdom, and joy as they proclaim the gospel and exhort their people to hold fast to Christ.

Pray that God would put an end to violence, intimidation, and other forms of persecution aimed at silencing persecuted believers and stopping the spread of the gospel.

Pray for Bibles and resources to be made available to persecuted believers.

Pray that God would provide for the physical needs of persecuted believers.

Please pray for believers who have been rejected by family and friends. Pray that God would surround them with a new Christian "family" who loves them and supports them emotionally and physically.

Pray for God to be an advocate for women who are socially vulnerable or have lost the custody of their children because of their faith.

Please pray that God would provide persecuted believers with jobs and safe places to live.

Pray for the protection of those not infected with Covid and for the healing of those who have become infected. Pray that they will trust in God and feel His presence and care each day.