

"SUFFERING, WHY IT HAPPENS TO CHRISTIANS"

By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.

Some have asked, "Why does the innocent, the good, and the Christian suffer?" I wish that I had the answer to this age old question. My knowledge is limited but I do know that the Scriptures offer some help with this question. To the Christian who puts his trust in the Creator, Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden." Matt 5:13-14 NIV.

The case of suffering Christian saints described in history is a hard case, and a very distressing one. They were persecuted, hunted, pursued, run down, as deadly beasts are. They were hunted and sought to be destroyed. In some areas of our world still today this is happening. Obtain a copy of the "Voice Of Martyrs" and one will *discover a great deal about suffering of Christians today. They were* and are fined, imprisoned, stripped of their estates, excluded from all places of profit and trust, scourged, racked, tortured, often delivered to death, and heading for as sheep to the slaughter. Some Scriptures which should be studied concerning "hurting for Christ" are: Matt 5:12 "Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." Matt 26 (Crucifixion of Jesus); Acts 7 (Stoning to death of Stephen); and II Cor. 11 (Persecutions and sufferings of Paul).

Life has many situations that can come upon one. The Christian believes that life is a gift from God and with His help one can accept any thing that comes into one's path. He also believes Romans 8:28, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Life is not fair, as someone said. That is why we must trust God to help us accept it.

Plainly, don't get short changed. Let's be ready to meet our Maker. The Bible (in Acts) teaches that to avoid hell and gain heaven - one must:
1) Believe In Jesus As Savior (16:31) 2) Repent Of Sins (17:30)
3) Confess Christ Audibly (8:37) 4) Be Baptized In Water (2:38)
5) Live A Christian Life (14:22) 6) Be Active In the Church (2:47)

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