

Tuesday, April 25, 2017 - Courage Enough to Die

Revelation 2:10 - Fear not the things which thou art about to suffer: behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days. Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life.

I write this article with the personal knowledge of 3 individuals, in various parts of the world, who's lives are currently in danger. Danger that has the very real possibility of ending at least one of their lives. What is the crime each of these are accused of? Preaching Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

Many Christians in the civilized world are soft. The thought of something negatively affecting us because we make a stand for our faith is often considered a price too high to pay. Family, friends, spouses are thus left not knowing the truth because we don't want to cause tension. Yet tension will be the least of our problems in that final day when those stand before God not knowing or obeying THE TRUTH and worse yet for those who made the decision that the price was too high to share that truth with others.

What are we truly on this earth for? Is it work, school, parties, travel, trips, graduation, sports or any of hundreds of other things we put before our service to God?

It might interest us to realize the attitude of a First Century brethren who also lived under constant threat of death:

Philippians 1:21 - For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Paul delivers the Christian's philosophy of life. The purpose of the Christian is to live for Christ, bring glory to the name of Christ, gain strength from Christ, teach others about Christ and seek to have fellowship with Christ by returning Christ's love and obeying his commands. In doing these things, the Christian has real life and joy. No outward circumstances can alter this. When a Christian dies, he gains because he goes to be with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8; Revelation 7:13-17). Therefore, a Christian is not afraid to face life because Christ will be with him. A Christian is not afraid to face death because Christ will be with him. Not once do we find in scripture where Jesus considered anything, even His life, more valuable than carrying out the will of The Father.

So next time we consider the price (to ourselves) of being a Christian too high, let's think about the words of one who fights the real struggle of true sacrifice every day:

"If I'm to be executed, I will get to go home and be with The Father..."

Pardon me while I bow my head in shame because of how pitifully weak I can be.