

L I F E A P P L I C A T I O N

In 2 Timothy 1:6-8, Paul writes to Timothy: *“For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God.”*

1. We are instructed to “share in the suffering for the gospel”. How can you do that? What does that look like in your life today?
2. How might sharing your testimony about Christ lead to suffering?
3. Compared to the rest of the world, what level of suffering do you think you will face as you share the gospel in our community?
4. How can you partner with Christians around the world that are suffering for the gospel today? How can you share about their suffering with others?

SERMON SERIES: THE CHURCH'S CHALLENGE
Sermon Message: What Happens When God's Will Is Done On Earth—The Challenge of Persecution
November 8, 2009
Dr. Jason Pettus



Today's Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 29.11
Next Week's Text: Acts 25
Testimony: Will Burnham

More on modern day persecution: www.persecution.com

IF YOU WERE ON TRIAL FOR YOUR FAITH...

WOULD YOU BE FOUND _____ OF BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY?
Acts 24:14-16 (Pew Bible page 791)

WOULD YOUR FAITH CAUSE OTHERS TO _____ UNDER CONVIC-
TION?
Acts 24:24-25 (Pew Bible page 792)

WOULD YOU _____ ?
Acts 24:27 (Pew Bible page 792)

YOU WILL ONE DAY _____ BEFORE GOD.
WILL THAT BE A DAY OF CELEBRATION OR SADNESS?

Hebrews 9:27 Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,
Hebrews 10:26-27 If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, ²⁷but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.

NOTE: Be sure and check out Pastor Jason's blogspot at pastorjasonpettus.blogspot.com. Check for updates every Monday. You can post comments and ask questions about what you've read, heard, and discussed.

A copy of today's message will be available at the kiosk in the lobby immediately following the service. Suggested donation for tapes or CDs is \$2. First time guests get today's tape/CD free by turning in your guest card at the Welcome Center.

This study guide is a resource for your Small Group to use for further study about today's sermon. If you need to find a Small Group, please contact Richard Carwile at rcarwile@lhbg.org or 843-9462. You can view a list of our Small Groups at www.livinghopewired.com.

O V E R V I E W

- 1) This past week, Pastor Jason preached from Acts 24; "The Challenge of Persecution". How do Christians in the United States usually use the term "persecution"?
- 2) Voice of the Martyrs is an organization that provides a global perspective on the persecution of Christians. You can visit their website at www.persecution.com. Here are some stories you will find there:
 - *INDIA: On Oct. 4, Pastor Prakash was attacked by 25 Bajrang Dal extremists while he was ministering in Kaiwara village, Bangalore Rural District.*
 - *SOMOLIA: On Sept. 28 an Islamic extremist shot and killed Mariam Muhina Hussein, an underground church leader, after discovering six Bibles in her possession.*
 - *RUSSIA: Recently, two Baptist pastors in Russia's Baltic Sea exclave of Kaliningrad were fined 2,200 rubles (US \$75) after their community "sang psalms and spoke about Christ" on the street.*

How does the persecution these men and women are facing compare to what Christians in the United States often refer to as persecution?

A C C L O S E R L O O K

A c t s 24

Read Acts 24 and discuss the following questions:

- 1) Summarize what takes place in Acts 24:1-23. What happens to Paul?
- 2) According to verses 24-26, why did Felix keep Paul in prison? What was he hoping Paul would do?
- 3) What do we learn about Paul's imprisonment in verse 27? How long has he been imprisoned at this point?
- 4) What do the following passages tell us about Paul's attitude regarding his imprisonment?

Ephesians 6:18-20:

2 Timothy 2:8-13: