

F. LaGard Smith answers the question: Is Christian persecution about to return?

Discussion and study guides / questions / topics for your consideration.

1. This segment begins with an unequivocal assertion that persecution is already here.
 - a. Although there are no specific instances given, the assertion is that courts are siding with plaintiffs in cases, for example, by same-sex couples against florists or bakers.
 - b. References are made to Canada and the UK where public preaching and just reading Romans 1 have resulted in arrests.
 - c. But “we” don’t see or experience this yet, here, in the US or the church building... but it is coming.
 - d. What do you think? Do you know of specific examples that corroborate the examples provided?
2. Note this statement: ...the day is coming when the government is going to clamp down on religion in all sorts of ways...
 - a. Is there something that stands out to you in this assertion?
 - b. Do we think / believe that the US government would NOT behave in this way?
 - c. What subtle ways might the government implement persecution?
 - i. Taxes; hiring; speech – bulletins - pronouns
 - d. The mayor of Houston is referenced for an attempt to censor 5 years ago. Is anyone here familiar with that example? Discuss.
3. What is happening in China and house-church?
 - a. They are feeling right now what we in America will be feeling not that far away.
 - b. **I cannot convince you of that...** how powerful is that assertion? What do you think?
 - c. ...because we are not there yet.
4. But the day is coming....Very strong language is used for persecution that could occur – what do you think?
 - a. Hunted; imprisoned; fined; crosses on our clothes.

- b. Christians are in their sights; its on the horizon.
 - c. Whose sights?
 - d. The US is in free fall – morally, spiritually – discuss.
 - e. ...and a militaristic anti-religious sentiment is growing. What do you think?
5. Why should we, NT Christians, read and the OT prophets?
- a. Is there value there?
 - b. What comforts do you think the OT prophets might bring us, if any?
 - c. What about Hebrews 11.1-38.
6. Does the NT writings bring us value and comfort?
- a. 1 Pet 3.13-17; 4.12-19; 5.6-10; 2 Tim 3.12,13;
 - b. Mt 5.10-12; John 15.18-21
 - c. What comforts do you think Revelation might bring us, if any?
7. Discussion questions:
- a. How does one prepare for a persecution?
 - b. What condition is your shield of faith in? Eph 6. 16; 1 Jo 5.4
 - c. What do we really believe and trust in?
 - d. Will you be ready?