

# THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Matthew 24:9

Intro: II Tim. 3:12 John 15:19 Matthew 24:9

It's happening all over the world.

It's happening all over the USA.

If they hated Jesus, they'll hate you!

A journey through the Book of Acts.

Cf. Acts 2:40-41	5:18-21	
2:47	5:40-42	
3:1-24	6 & 7	Stephen seized
4:1-4	7:57-59	and stoned
4:17-21	8:1-4	

## 1. Are you willing to take a stand?

Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.  
Acts 8:4

## 2. How many people does it take to die for their faith before you take action?

Estimates: 100,000 per year

1,000,000 per decade

Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners,  
and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.  
Hebrews 13:3

Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering  
toward slaughter.  
Proverbs 24:11

Barnabasfund.org  
Opendoorsusa.org  
Togetherministry.com

## 3. Are you willing to pray for those who persecute you?

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

*2015 Theme: I Love My Church*

*Pastor Dudley Rutherford  
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