



Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of *[them]* all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived (II Ti 3.10-13).

One may be able to say with the rich young ruler,

And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

But, hear the words of the Lord Jesus Christ Who calls us to a life of holiness unto Him, to live for Him Who suffered, was crucified on the Cross of Calvary, shed His Blood on Calvary, died, and rose victoriously over sin, hell, and the grave.

Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, **One thing thou lackest:** go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions (Mk 10.17-22).

Take up thy cross and follow me, I heard my Master say.

There is a hymn which has the above sentence in it; and I ask,

What will your answer be, when He calls?

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Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

Mighty in the Word

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (I Cor. 1.18).

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

The Wise Still Seek Him

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*of the
Lord
Jesus Christ*

One Thing Thou Lackest . . .

Many stand on pulpits speaking forth their goodly message, telling people that they are wonderful, and God loves them right where they are. They also say that God understands, all is well, so keep on going the way you are going.

If ever I heard a word straight from hell, this is it.

People are walking in their own willful ways, full of self. All is about them and their mis-understanding - uh, I mean understanding of who they are and why they were created by the Lord God.

Rev 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, *and our God*, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

This is a word telling us that we are created for His pleasure, His pleasure being that we would serve Him, sit in His presence offering unto Him glory and honor and power.

Oh that men would see His glory and exalt His Name above all names. That we would know that He is worthy of all honor; and He is all power. There is none beside Him. He alone is Holy God, and we need to acknowledge Him as all glory and honor and power. He alone has the power over all.

As we go forth, we are to exalt His Holy Name, tell the world of His great love given to us on the Cross of Calvary for our sins that we might repent of our sins and live for Him, that we might tell others, and still others of His great love.

He is worthy of our worship, our praise for He created all things. He created the world, us - all that is in the world, the sea, the mountains, the sky . . . Oh, this should bring us to our knees to know He alone is God, and that He created us for His pleasure. There is none beside Him.

Jesus Christ sees into our hearts and knows who we are and whose we are - whether His or another. The world and those standing on the pulpits believe their games with people's lives, their souls, is acceptable by the only living God. Oh, No! No! No! We are accountable! We must seek the Lord to guide us to speak forth the Truth, His Truth, for it is on us if we fail to follow the Lord Jesus Christ and follow Him. Ezekiel 3 and 33 makes it clear it is also on those who use falsely teach the Word of God, who extrapolate their teachings to distract from the

Word of God what is written for our edification, who generalize to make it acceptable to those who listen to them.

We cannot generalize the Word of God in Christ Jesus, because the Lord is very specific in His Word, what He demands of us. The Lord Jesus loves us, and we are to live for Him Who died for us and rose victoriously over sin, hell, and the grave.

He makes clear in His Word that there is but **one way**, and that it is in Him that we are to live and have our being - for His glory. We cannot play games, do goodly things as some religions teach - and expect to see Him one day. No, this is about living a godly life, a life of holiness.

Let us look at the rich young ruler in Mark's Gospel.

And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? *[there is]* none good but one, *[that is]*, God.

Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.

And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, **One thing thou lackest:** go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions (Mk 10.17-22).

Today, people believe their lives are about themselves, their goodliness as did the rich young ruler. He was his own judge and jury as he looked at what he believed he, himself, had done. He saw that he had "arrived," so to speak, and said boldly to the Lord God: "All these have I observed from my youth." But the Lord God Almighty in Christ Jesus goes deep inside us, and reveals who we are not, and the sin that doth so easily beset us. When we take such pride in ourselves, our eyes are not on Jesus Christ and Who He is and what He has done for us. We have equated the standard of the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ with the worldly ways which is a life without Jesus Christ.

Mar 10:21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

I am reminded of St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe.

In 1939 the Nazi panzers overran Poland with deadly speed. Niepokalanow was severely bombed. Kolbe and his friars were arrested, then released in less than three months, on the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

In 1941 he was arrested again. The Nazis' purpose was to liquidate the select ones, the leaders. The end came quickly, in Auschwitz three months later, after terrible beatings and humiliations.

A prisoner had escaped. The commandant announced that 10 men would die. He relished walking along the ranks. "This one. That one." As they were being marched away to the starvation bunkers, Number 16670 dared to step from the line. "I would

like to take that man's place. He has a wife and children." "Who are you?" "A priest." No name, no mention of fame. Silence. The commandant, dumbfounded, perhaps with a fleeting thought of history, kicked Sergeant Francis Gajowniczek out of line and ordered Father Kolbe to go with the nine. In the "block of death" they were ordered to strip naked and the slow starvation began in darkness. But there was no screaming—the prisoners sang. By the eve of the Assumption four were left alive. The jailer came to finish Kolbe off as he sat in a corner praying. He lifted his fleshless arm to receive the bite of the hypodermic needle. It was filled with carbolic acid. They burned his body with all the others.

Comment:

Father Kolbe's death was not a sudden, last-minute act of heroism. His whole life had been a preparation. His holiness was a limitless, passionate desire to convert the whole world to God. And his beloved Immaculata was his inspiration. (This is in *Saint of the Day.*)

We have long forgotten the suffering of the people of God in Christ Jesus. It *seems* we read of the persecution in the Holy Bible and think of them as just stories, not authentic revelations of what has happened to the people of the Lord God all through the centuries - even in our world today and in the country in which I live - which has changed drastically.

We have forgotten that the Word of God in Christ Jesus reveals to us that all who live a godly life will be persecuted.

Around 203 AD, a young mother went to her death by beasts because of her love for the Lord Jesus Christ. Her pagan father spoke to her about denying the Lord God for his sake, for the sake of her aging father. How many parents, family members, have and will endeavor to persuade their children or someone else in the family who is being persecuted for the Lord to deny the Lord to please them. Oh, how strong one must be to see beyond the earthly family that they might not deny the Lord - come what may.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *[shall]* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom 8.35-39).

Oh, the Lord calls us to live for Him and to die for Him, should that come to us. We are living in days much like the early church; but few there be who see, who know what is going on in the world today. Where are the servants whom the Lord Jesus Christ has called to preach the Gospel and are able to say, to speak forth the Word in the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit - and cry out, "**Thus saith the Lord!**"

Paul wrote to young Timothy encouraging him to go forth preaching the Truth, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that other followers of Jesus Christ might be encouraged in the days that were before them.

But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,