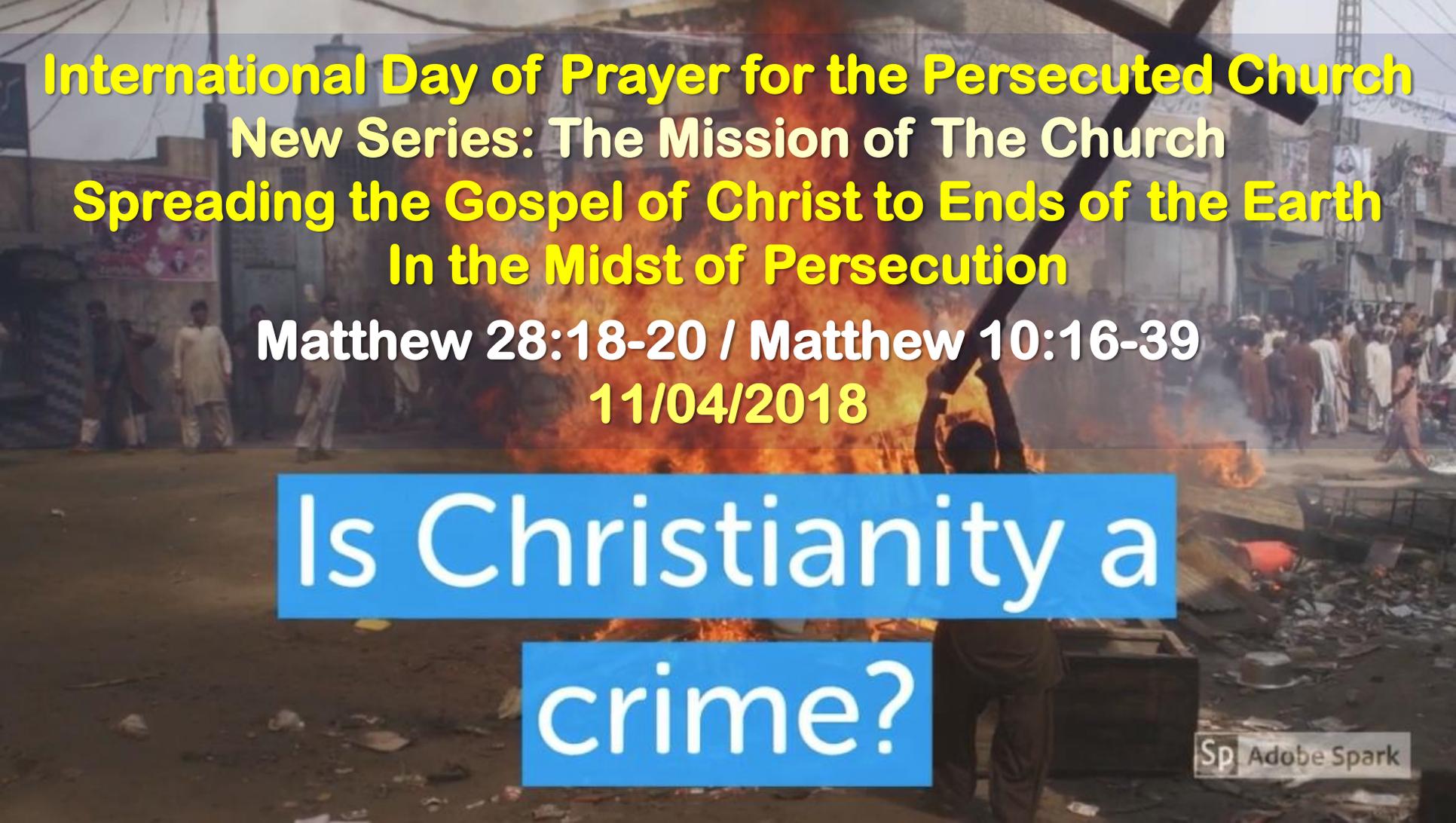


**Welcome to the Worship Celebration of**



SIMPLY BIBLICAL | FAMILY INTEGRATED

A person is seen from behind, carrying a large wooden cross on their shoulders. They are walking through a street that is filled with a large fire in the background. The fire is bright orange and yellow, and there is a lot of smoke. In the background, there are buildings and other people, some of whom appear to be looking towards the person with the cross. The overall scene suggests a moment of persecution or a significant act of faith in a difficult environment.

**International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church**  
**New Series: The Mission of The Church**  
**Spreading the Gospel of Christ to Ends of the Earth**  
**In the Midst of Persecution**

**Matthew 28:18-20 / Matthew 10:16-39**  
**11/04/2018**

**Is Christianity a  
crime?**

# International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

## The Mission of the Church – part 1

### Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

(ref. Acts 1:8)

# International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

## The Mission of the Church – part 1

### Matthew 5:10-12

Jesus said, “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

# **International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church**

## **The Mission of the Church – part 1**

### **Acts 14:21-22**

**When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, <sup>22</sup> strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.**

# **International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church**

## **The Mission of the Church – part 1**

**2 Timothy 3:12**

**Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.**

# **International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church**

## **The Mission of the Church – part 1**

**Matthew 10:16-39**

**Let's listen to the words of Jesus regarding the Mission of the church, Spreading the Gospel, and the Persecution we may face in the process**

# **International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church**

## **The Mission of the Church – part 1**

**Matthew 10:16-39**

**→ Jesus Prepared us / Warned us about the Persecution that the church would encounter as we Spread The Gospel and as we LIVE the Gospel of Christ ...**

**Here are some of our Brethren under Tremendous Persecutions and under Tremendous Pressure to either convert to Islam or to be silent → in Pakistan ... but the church is standing strong. Areas of Asia and Africa have the highest rates of Persecution against the church than anywhere else on the planet.**

So, what can we do about all of this? → **PRAY**

Luke 6:27-28 (this is a command)

Jesus said, “**But I say to you who listen: Love your enemies, do what is good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, **PRAY** for those who mistreat you.**”

**Did Jesus, our LORD, KING, God and Savior actually mean this, for us to do this? WHAT?**

Paul seems to have thought so:

**Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.**

**Romans 12:14**

**Wow, that seems a supernatural feat ... spiritual warfare**

# International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

## The Mission of the Church – part 1

So, what can we do about all of this? → **PRAY**

**Ephesians 6:10-20**

**Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.**

# International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

## The Mission of the Church – part 1

So, what can we do about all of this? → **PRAY**

**Ephesians 6:10-20**

**<sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having girded your waist with TRUTH, having put on the breastplate of RIGHTEOUSNESS, <sup>15</sup> and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; <sup>16</sup> above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench ALL the fiery darts of the wicked one. <sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; <sup>18</sup> PRAYING always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints . . . and ...**

# International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

## The Mission of the Church – part 1

So, what can we do about all of this? → **PRAY**

**Ephesians 6:10-20**

**<sup>18</sup> PRAYING always with ALL prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with ALL perseverance and supplication for ALL the saints — <sup>19</sup> and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.**

**Paul was persecuted and in chains → asked for prayer**

**So, what can we do about all of this? → PRAY**

**Matthew 9:35-38**

**Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. <sup>36</sup> But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. <sup>38</sup> Therefore PRAY (beg, plead, petition) the LORD of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”**

**So, what can we do about all of this? → PRAY**

**Luke 18:1-8**

**Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart, saying, “In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man. There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, ‘Give me legal protection from my opponent.’ For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, ‘Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.’” And the LORD said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge said; now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find *[such]* faith on the earth?”**



# FACTS & TRENDS

- + 215 million Christians experience high levels of persecution in the countries on the World Watch List. This represents 1 in 12 Christians worldwide.
- + North Korea is ranked #1 for the 16th consecutive year (since 2002).
- + During the World Watch List 2018 reporting period: 3,066 Christians were killed; 1,252 were abducted; 1,020 were raped or sexually harassed; and 793 churches were attacked.
- + Islamic Oppression fuels persecution in 8 of the top 10 countries.

Photo by Francisco Areola

## *MAJOR TRENDS IN CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION*

# MAJOR TRENDS IN CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION



## 1. Spread of Radical Islam

Islamic oppression is one of the most widely recognized sources of persecution for Christians in the world today—and it continues to spread—aiming to bring many parts of the world under Sharia law. The movement, which often results in Islamic militancy and persecution of Christians, is expanding in Asia (Philippines, Bangladesh, Indonesia) and Africa (Egypt, Nigeria, Somalia).



## 2. The Rise of Religious Nationalism

In an effort to preserve power, insecure governments are using the country's majority religion to marginalize Christians and other religious minorities. This phenomenon has been observed in some parts of Asia with Hindu nationalism (India, Nepal) and Buddhist nationalism (Myanmar, Sri Lanka) both gaining ground.

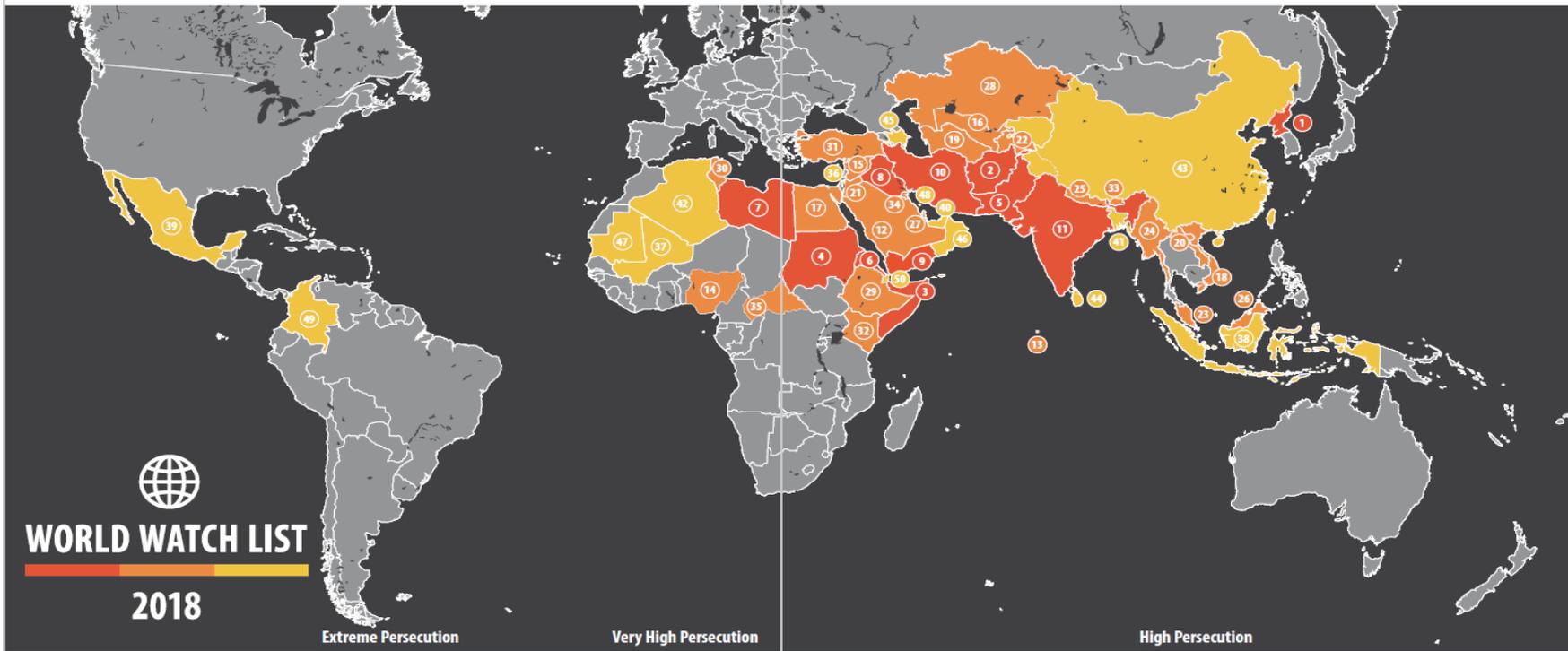


## 3. Intense Persecution in Central Asia

Persecution in Central Asia is on the rise in countries like Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan—and Azerbaijan is new to the list at #45. There is a grassroots revival of Islam in Central Asia, and that means more pressure from the nationalist pro-Islamic governments and within society—causing increased persecution levels on two fronts.

**The International Day of Prayer ...**

**Let's Get into Groups of 2 or 3 for Prayer  
for the Persecuted Church and for God to  
use the Church to reach the remaining  
Unreached People Groups with the Gospel**



  
**WORLD WATCH LIST**  
**2018**

The 50 countries where it is most dangerous to follow Jesus:

- |               |                 |               |                             |               |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 1 North Korea | 11 India        | 21 Jordan     | 31 Turkey                   | 41 Bangladesh |
| 2 Afghanistan | 12 Saudi Arabia | 22 Tajikistan | 32 Kenya                    | 42 Algeria    |
| 3 Somalia     | 13 Maldives     | 23 Malaysia   | 33 Bhutan                   | 43 China      |
| 4 Sudan       | 14 Nigeria      | 24 Myanmar    | 34 Kuwait                   | 44 Sri Lanka  |
| 5 Pakistan    | 15 Syria        | 25 Nepal      | 35 Central African Republic | 45 Azerbaijan |
| 6 Eritrea     | 16 Uzbekistan   | 26 Brunei     | 36 Palestinian Territories  | 46 Oman       |
| 7 Libya       | 17 Egypt        | 27 Qatar      | 37 Mali                     | 47 Mauritania |
| 8 Iraq        | 18 Vietnam      | 28 Kazakhstan | 38 Indonesia                | 48 Bahrain    |
| 9 Yemen       | 19 Turkmenistan | 29 Ethiopia   | 39 Mexico                   | 49 Colombia   |
| 10 Iran       | 20 Laos         | 30 Tunisia    | 40 United Arab Emirates     | 50 Djibouti   |

