Suffering the Saints!

Romans 8:17-18

Introduction

Paul knew from experience that sharing the gospel and seeing lives changed fueled opposition to it and had the scars to prove it!

**Around the world and throughout history, Christians have been brutally killed for their faith making them \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

Hebrews 11:35-37 Acts 4:4 Acts 8:1

**A small group of believers grew \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the following centuries despite the attempts to squash this movement.**

*“Read your own histories, and you will find, that Nero was the first who raged*

 *against this sect (so he calls the Christians), which then flourished the most in*

 *Rome.”* Tertullian

**What is it about martyrdom that has resulted in such a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Christian faith?**

 *“…for martyrs to have been unwilling to die for their beliefs, they would have had to*

 *consider ambiguous the many biblical passages that stipulated steadfastness in*

 *suffering”.*  Brad Gregory, *Salvation At Stake*

Mark 13.13)

**According to *World Christian Trends AD 30 – AD 2200,* the effect of Christian \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on evangelization over the centuries has been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

 *“The purpose of the church cannot be to survive or even to thrive but to serve. And*

 *sometimes servants die in the serving”*. *An Unstoppable Force,* Erwin McManus

 Mark 10:45 Luke 19:10 \*\***Romans 1:16-17\*\***

**Conclusion**

 **I**f you have read your bible, you shouldn’t be surprised that you will suffer.