

*Why does China allow Islam but not Christianity? Do they have something against Christians?*

Communists in China opposes Christianity. Jesus said that there is: one way, one truth and one life (Jn 14:6).

The Bible teaches that believers<sup>1</sup> will be persecuted for their faith; and, since Jesus walked the earth, that is exactly what has happened. Persecution will continue for Christians worldwide until the rapture of the church (1 Thess 4:16, 17).

Persecution is caused by: man's sinful nature (Gal. 4:29), hatred of God (Jn 15:20–23), ignorance of God (Jn 16:1–3), hatred of Christ (1 Thess. 2:15; Rev. 12:13), preaching the cross (Gal. 5:11; Gal. 6:12), godly living (Matt. 13:21; 2 Tim. 3:12) and mistaken zeal (Acts 13:50; Acts 26:9–11).<sup>2</sup>

Believers in China must be patient at this time (1 Cor. 4:12). They have brethren around the world praying for them (Mt 5:44).

The apostle John wrote about the persecuted church in the Book of Revelation (Re 2:8–11). He reminded them that Christ is their counselor (v. 8); and, though they are persecuted and poor in the world, they are rich in the kingdom because of their faith (v. 9a). They are slandered and hated by those who belong to Satan (v. 9b).

Persecuted Christians should continue to remain faithful. The Lord will give them a crown of life (v. 10). They can be encouraged because the second death cannot hurt them (v. 11).

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<sup>1</sup> Islam is a false world religion (2 Pe 2:1).

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). Nelson's quick reference topical Bible index (p. 483). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.