

We The People  
Program 307 August 13, 2018  
We the People 307 Christian Persecution



**Good Day to you.** I was raised in the coastal town of The Entrance just north of Sydney. My early years were the kind that Enid Blyton would have written about kindly as we boys played and explored endlessly around the lakes and the beaches. In particular we were transported by her books on the **Famous Five** and discovered the world through imagination and adventure. We were as fit as mallee bulls and brown as berries and went to church on Sundays. Part of my life was a solid family connection with The Entrance Presbyterian Church and Christianity was to prove to be the most glorious and practical way to live my life and I will be eternally grateful to my parents. Life was different then where even politics were somehow punctuated with Churchillian civility along with a respect for the Bible. Society was bound by an understanding that people mattered as did peace, dignity and honesty.

So as my imperfect life has been swept along by man's tide, my Christianity has been my anchor, yet all this is under threat as we live in an age where Christians are violently persecuted worldwide as never before. At its heart Christianity is simple and solely about love and faith and standing up for what you believe in and at times bears little correlation with man's church. The core of Christianity and its truths are unchanged since genesis and locked in since Jesus Christ walked this earth 2000 years ago. In truth there can be no revival, no renaissance and no reformation because the truth is always the truth. So I ask myself why are Christians so persecuted and found in so much contempt. Just to put some facts in place as is my custom, there is a measure we can refer to provided by the International Institute for Religious Freedom. Its research identifies 50 countries where violent Christian persecution occurs but of those North Korea takes first place where apparently little rocket man thinks he is God. Following are countries like Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan, Pakistan, Eritrea, Libya, Iraq, Yemen and Iran and so on. However a rising star is India where the most dreadful practices occur sanctioned by their government. There is a definite link here between primitive societies and Islam which many believe is the world's premier driver of persecution globally. Each day 215 million Christians are deliberately persecuted and many killed or maimed.

When we think of persecution we think of violence but there is so called 'soft' persecution and in this, Australia is a leader. Our laws and our culture are founded in the Christian faith and serve us well. Yet at every turn we hear about the advantage of being secular which has different meanings in different places. In the last few hundred years particularly in Western society it has meant a separation of State and Church and I suppose that's fine **but** if it's stated in the context of manmade law being the only evaluator then it's clearly failed. Being secular is now seen as a perfectly righteous way to govern and to live and the more God is excluded the better it is. It's this incorrect meaning of secularity which is now weaponized against Christians as being a socially acceptable religion of its own to rid society of Christianity. Political parties appear to love the idea but in particular the Labor party and the Greens preach from the book of secularism with fervour. Indeed it has become the new religion but without spiritual benefit or guiding light through universal truth. An example is the Australian Senate which is about to ban the Lord's prayer from its chamber and no doubt secular wisdom will ban the great prayer from the opening of parliament. On and on goes the spectacularly stupid secular caravan while society's standards fall by the wayside and man's law is all that matters. However man's meagre offering leads to corruption and failure and a tortured judiciary.

So the violent persecution of Christians continues as it's lumped into the basket of general religion but some of us understand it's the way, the truth and the light and to drive it deliberately from Australian society using secularism as the reason, is fatally flawed. Every day 215 million Christians are shamefully persecuted and many killed by an insidious and malevolent force. Some of my best friends are atheists but remember, we travel in opposite directions with different final destinations.

**Until next time this is Kent Bayley**