

from that. If not, and it be your will do with some means we have not even thought of and do not know about bring this danger to an end that our civilization may continue longer.

But I don't know as we have any right to ask this. I do not know if we are not as Christian now as the Roman empire was in 430 when the Vandals swept destruction. I do not know as we are. I do not know what is ahead, whether the Lord is coming back soon or whether God will intervene with a great world-wide ~~revival~~ revival in some place. We don't see any such. But He might choose to.

Or whether we have another Dark Ages that will last a few years. But this I know that Jesus Christ said, I am with you to the end of the world. Jesus wants us to be prepared whatever comes. He wants us to witness today when there is no hindrance to our witnessing to reach souls for Christ and to show Christians how to grow in grace. He wants us to fill our hearts with His Scripture so we will have it if the darkness sweeps over us as it did over all of the Roman Empire in the time of Augustine, if that be the case He wants us to be ready and able to serve Him as effectively even then.

In China 30 years ago the Christian churches were reduced little by little by little until one day they boasted that there was not a church open in all of China. Christian ministers were imprisoned (some of them) for 30 years. Others were tortured. Many died. Then it was decided that we need to get some help from the West and they opened up relations again and in order to please us they stopped the persecution and they found that there were hundreds of house churches all over China. House churches have now been made illegal. But for about a year or so they were allowed freely to run.

I don't think they have actually gone to stopping them now, but they have declared them illegal. You have to go to the official churches under government control. The persecution that was in China may come back. But they boast 10 or 15 years ago that there was not a single church service in China. Yet when the opportunity came, it was found that there are perhaps more Christians in China today than there were when the Communists siezed power. Because the Christians have witnessed to others. They have held secret meetings. They have showed by their persistence in the face of torture and troubles what Jesus Christ can do for them.

"Lo I am with you to the end of the world." Let us pray. Our Father we do not know what's ahead. You have said, In the world you will have tribulation. We have our little troubles. Help us to learn how to meet them. Help us to solve the problems. And what we can't solve help us to recognize you've sent for a purpose to see your hand in it and to rejoice it has a purpose in making us and developing us into the kind of people you want us to be and you will be with us thru it. We think of the Christians in Russia, in China, in all Communist countries suffering under persecution. We think of their young men being sent off to bring others under control. We pray you will avert such a situation from coming here. If it does come help us to prepare for it and be ready and bear a true witness no matter what it costs. We pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.