

I hear people say the Christian is not going to go into any tribulation misery because the Lord will deliver us out of tribulation. Say such a thing to a believer in Russia today where men are subject to torture, in the dungeon, being terribly mistreated simply for distributing copies of the Bible. Say such a thing to people in China today where it is illegal to even talk about God to a child and where those who do often suffer great torture. Yet they say that there are individuals in just about every part of China who are quietly spreading knowledge of Christ.

All, he says, will suffer persecution who live godly in Christ. We don't know what may be ahead for us. But Paul recognized that Christ has the power. It is He who will give us deliverance. In John 16, the last verse of the ch., he says, "These things have I spoken that in me ye might have peace, in the world you shall have tribulation but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

You see our nation cutting down on its armaments, spending 6% of the national income for armaments; see Russia spending 25% of its national income for armaments. We see great parts of the world suffering severely today. Who knows what persecution may be ahead for us. All who live godly in Jesus Christ will suffer persecution, but Jesus said, I have overcome the world. We are going to suffer disappointments in our lives, all of us. The one to whom everything seems to come easy and has no problems in life, you are apt to find has not really accomplished much. But when we suffer disappointments, when we suffer persecution we want to be sure that it is for the sake of Christ. We want to be sure it is not because of our self-will, because of our determination to do what we think is best. We want to be sure it is not because of sloppy thinking. How easy it is to get excited about little things, and to turn our attention ~~zz~~ away from the things that matter.

Dr. Murray has mentioned this book by Harold Lindsell, The Battle for the Bible. The book has some very interesting facts about a number of denominations, and organizations, which a few years ago were standing as far as we could possibly see foursquare for the Word of God. Foursquare for the truth of the Bible, and have drifted away. In his introduction to the book he has a dedication which says, This book is gratefully dedicated to four of my teaching colleagues all of whom stood or stand steadfastly for Biblical inerrancy. He names four men, three of them like Lindsell resigned from Fuller Seminary and have declared they did it because of Fuller's turn away from its stand for inerrancy. Fuller Seminary put out a statement not long after this came out to its alumni and took up each of these cases, and in each of them they say it was because he was not made president that he ~~zzzz~~ resigned and not at all because they no longer == the institution no longer stood for inerrancy.

But I think one of the saddest things is to note that among the four names that he gave, as I said three of them resigned, one of them died while still teaching there, died maybe 10 or 15 years ago. That was Edward John Carnell. Carnell was brought up in a very orthodox home. Carnell ~~WXXX~~ went to Wheaton College and came out of Wheaton college determined to make his life count for the Lord.