

and many people found that it hurt their conscience when the Christians would tell them about Christ, and the result was that Nero felt that here's a people the people don't understand but they dislike them, and so I'll put the blame on them for burning Rome. So the Christians got the blame for something originally that was something quite apart from their religion and suffered for a brief time quite terribly in Nero's persecution.

But Satan is able to mould matters and use them to accomplish his purposes. Though the Romans were very tolerant of all sorts of queer religions, they persecuted the church off and on for 300 years. You look forward 1500 years and you find the time of the Reformers. You read about the terrible persecutions the Christians went through during that period. Before the Reformation began -- Luther wasn't the first to preach most of what he preached. That is, no one before the Reformation (Luther) preached the full message that Luther preached, but there were a number who preached a very large part of what Luther preached, and most of them were killed. Perhaps sent where they could have no influence.

Many of them suffered for their faith, and then finally Luther came and others and the great Reformation broke out. Then the terrible persecution came. In our own day, the persecution in the days of the Romans and in the days of the Reformers can be equaled or perhaps exceeded by the things that have happened in our own day.

I was greatly thrilled a number of years ago to read the account of a missionary who had gone into the highlands in the interior of Vietnam. There he had found the aborigines, this tribe that was rather looked down upon by the Vietnamese. These people lived in a very primitive way. But he had gone among them and preached to them the Gospel and he'd gotten a considerable number of them to come to know the Lord. There was a tremendous change in the attitude and in the whole life of these Aborigines.

Then the communists came into their island country and began to seize individuals and persecute them and the rest of them in this group left suddenly one night and went on the river and went inland a ways and there they established a real Christian community. This individual missionary and a few friends with him were a tremendous influence among them in building a real Christian community there in the heart of Vietnam!

I suppose every one of those people by this time have been either killed or tortured, or have fled to the sea and tried to get away and have escaped and perhaps has. The devil has tried to wipe it out. I don't know how many of you have read any of Mr. Wurmb's books. He was a Christian minister in Rumania. When the communists took over he was seized, put into prison, put into solitary confinement. They would then take him out and say to him, We'll be glad to free you and you can go out and preach all you want. The only thing is that you will have to listen and see if anyone has said anything against communism and then inform us. You tell us about that, and you can preach