



THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Luke 13:31-35

Christianity is by far the fastest growing global religion

--IF what is measured is Christianity's most significant type of growth --the growth in the number of those truly believing.

These figures do not indicate the level of penetration into the still-unreached peoples. They just report the overall progress of Christianity as a percentage of total world population.

BIBLE-BELIEVING CHRISTIANS This phrase refers to those people who read, believe, and obey the Bible--whether or not they are yet as active as they ought to be in helping out with world evangelization.

"In 1430 AD only one in one hundred were Bible believing Christians. Now one in ten are believers. Believers are growing over three times the rate of world population. So that today, 540 million out of 5.4 billion people in the world are Bible-believing Christians." (Statistics from Mission Frontiers)

Luke 13:31-35
MISSION IN VIEW

- Jesus had time for the ministry God arranged for Him (13:32).
- Jesus' ministry through death would come at the appropriate time (13:32).
- Jesus' death would come at the appropriate spot (13:33).

Will you be ready?

Percentage of world's population that is Bible-believing Christians	Important years	Number of Christians for every non-Christian
One per hundred (1%) by	AD 1430	(One to 99 after 1430 years)
Two per hundred (2%) by	AD 1790	(One to 49 after 360 years)
Three per hundred (3%) by	AD 1940	(One to 32 after 150 years)
Four per hundred (4%) by	AD 1960	(One to 24 after 20 years)
Five per hundred (5%) by	AD 1970	(One to 19 after 10 years)
Six per hundred (6%) by	AD 1980	(One to 16 after 10 years)
Seven per hundred (7%) by	AD 1983	(One to 13 after 3 years)
Eight per hundred (8%) by	AD 1986	(One to 11 after 3 years)
Nine per hundred (9%) by	AD 1989	(One to 10 after 3 years)
Ten per hundred (10%) by	AD 1993	(One to 9 after 4 years)

Can we deny that the growth of the church seems to be closely correlated to the number of Christians giving up their lives as martyrs?!

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO GIVE YOUR LIFE?

-- Justin Long, of David Barrett's office in Virginia, says that more have done so than we realize! His tally of "average martyrs annually" is sobering: 1996, 159,000; 1900, 35,600; 1970, 230,000. "Martyrdom across the ages has garnered a significant amount of interest recently. In *Our globe and how to reach it* (1990, Barrett & Johnson), the grim facts are presented.

From AD33 to 1990, there were 420 situations of martyrdom (where large groups of Christians are killed). In 56 of these over 100,000 were killed; in 20, more than half a million were killed and in twelve over 1 million were killed.

The bulk of these situations occurred in two periods: the first, between 1000 and 1500 AD, and the second, a much shorter period, 1900-1980. 26 million, over half of all Christian martyrs ever, were killed in this latter period. **Some 9.9 million were martyred in the past forty years alone.** (Justin Long, <gemrsrch@ix.netcom.com>, GEM, Virginia)