

What Would They Say?

The Bible tells us about the intense persecution that was endured by early Christians. We know that many were imprisoned, and a large number were put to death (Acts 26:9-11). Uninspired historical accounts give us additional information about the terrible trials and sufferings of those first disciples. We are told that Christians in the city of Rome faced great danger when they assembled together for worship. Because of this they were often forced to hold their meetings in secret places. It is also said that at the height of this persecution members of a family would leave for worship at different times so that they would not generate suspicion. They even changed their meeting place and assembly time each week to avoid being discovered.

Did you ever wonder how these early saints would react if they were able to comment about the practice of their modern day brothers and sisters? Do you not imagine that they would be shocked to learn about the things that keep some Christians from attending all the worship assemblies and Bible studies? What was it that kept you from the assemblies last week? Too tired? Too busy? A school function? A vacation trip? Relatives from out of town visiting? A fishing trip? A round of golf? A minor sniffle or headache? Too sick to worship (but not to sick to go to work)? Stop for a minute to think what those persecuted Christians of the first century would say if they heard YOUR excuses. Why did those people take such risks and suffer so much? The answer is obvious: they loved the Lord and were committed to His service. What about YOU?

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