

THE WORD AND PERSECUTION

Copyright Matthew Verschuur. Originally published in *The Protector*, 4/6/2007.

From the Reformation to the present day, standing for the Word of God does mean suffering persecution.

John Foxe (1516–1587) witnessed firsthand the rise of Protestantism in England. But what he did of great service to the Church was accurately document the persecutions that true believers had suffered at the hands of Roman Catholicism. His book was called *Acts and Monuments*, now called, *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*. It has been popular from the time of the reign of Queen Elizabeth the First (first published in 1563).

This book was instrumental in exposing the true nature of the Romanists. These days the Papacy appears as a man of peace, and so it seems as if such violent and horrible persecutions of Christians are only a historical thing. But given opportunity, fallen man would manifest such evils. The devils are still around seeking opportunities to steal, kill and destroy.

Among the martyrs that Foxe records, are William Tyndale, who translated the Bible into English, and John Rogers. These were men who laboured to establish the Word of God as the basis of the Protestant English Reformation. Their work contributed ultimately to the King James Bible, and yet they paid the greatest price for their faith, they died as martyrs.

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.” (Revelation 12:11).

This present time shows that there is still a persecution and war being waged against Christians who hold to the Word of God. Although people are generally not being physically harmed for their faith, there is much mental attack on Christians. For example, the King James Bible doctrine has been fairly successfully fogged. This fog of knowledge is a spiritual phenomenon. Devils are behind it.

The antichristian persecution cannot prevail. History shows that Romanism has gone down, and that the King James Bible has come up. In recent times it may seem as if Romanism is strong and the Bible weak, but the Bible shows that this is not the case: “And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth” (2 Thessalonians 2:8a). The Word must consume the work of the spirit of antichrist.