

The war was over. The communists took over and very cleverly drove the Christian leaders out of China. Drove the Christian missionaries--every single one of them out of China calling them imperialists. Then little by little took over control of the church and put most of its ministers in prison. It looked as if Christianity was completely wiped out. They boasted that there was not a church service held in China except in the foreign legation, in the capital among foreigners only. That there was not a church service anywhere they claimed in China.

Then in the middle 1960's there came the so-called cultural revolution in which the young fellows left the high schools and colleges and for two years rushed through the streets declaring that every vestige of imperialism, every vestige of foreign influence must be wiped out from China and did everything they could to destroy everything of that sort.

What China went through. What tribulations the Christians endured. Here I have a copy of the PCA messenger that just came out recently, which has an article on China's challenge. The author of this ~~xxx~~ article has recently made a visit to China. He says, "I heard the story of a 75 year old pastor who had just completed a 25 year term in prison. During that quarter century he suffered as many as four years in solitary silent confinement. He had almost lost his ~~xxx~~ ability to speak. The Lord had used him since his release last June to bring together a congregation of approximately 700. When asked if he was not afraid of preaching and being so bold in his testimony he answered: No my clearance papers were issued by the prison, and they can recall me anytime they want."

This man says that he heard that in the ~~xx~~ coastal cities of of H _____ and Hangchow that there are communes where 10% of the population is Christian. But think of the suffering, of the torture, of the torment those people have gone through. The power of Satan.

It could come in this country. It could come very easily in this country. Would you be ready and able to stand what the Chinese pastor did? Would you be able to stand torture, imprisonment, suffering for the cause of Christ? Would you have so much of the Scripture in your heart that even if you were completely deprived of access to the Scripture, you would have that on which you could meditate and grow in Christ, and that on which you could whisper to your fellow prisoners in telling them of Christ's love. We need to be aware of the power of Satan and of what he may be able to do.

But while we should be aware of this, and I think we have a duty as citizens -- I'm sure we have a duty as citizens to vote. I'm sure any citizen (Christian) in a democratic country who does not vote and try to find out what the people stand for for whom he votes is not following the Scripture, is not giving to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar. While we have a duty to do that, the shaping of the forces of the future are in God's hands. We cannot destroy the power of Satan, but it is important that we be aware of it. It is important we realize how powerful he is and