

The following is from a letter by Paul ~~(Anon)~~ a Teen for Christ.

"PERSECUTION" 1966 346

By the grace of God I'm going to send a tape and tell you all about our being arrested at a Christ for Today Crusade in Weatherford, Texas on July 14. Artie, Pat, Mother, and I were taken down to the police station on our arrival at the Crusade, because on the two other nights we attended we brought folks forward to receive Christ, prayed with them and talked to many others. But when the head counselor talked to us and found we professed to have no denominational ties, but were just there to promote Christ in the interest of seeing souls saved, he couldn't believe it. The thought that we belonged to no man-recognized church-body except Jesus Christ's church and were there just for love of lost souls and not proselyting or soliciting patrons apparently was too much for him to believe. Or else because we didn't belong and were just trying to get souls into Jesus (John 15:5 "He that abideth in me and I in him the same bringeth forth much fruit") and not into one of the religious organizations, he just didn't want us around. Can you imagine the head counselor of a "soul-saving" endeavor having the cops take us away? It was an experience showing me the evils of the organized religious system. We did get to witness to a bunch of officers though. When we got there for the Crusade the Police Chief took us to the station, asked many questions, then, at my suggestion, phoned Bill Banes, director of the Tarleton Baptist Student Union, who, he said, highly recommended us. We've gone through some hardship and harassment for not belonging.

Moral of the story: Follow Jesus. Work in the existing religious structures to the fullest extent possible, but all the while just follow and trust in Christ doing Matt. 4:19 ("fishing for men") and Luke 19:10 ("seek and save the lost") no matter what the cost. Any organization, group, or individual you trust in will fail. Mind you, this happened at an interdenominational deal. The preacher James Robison (a Baptist) is an anointed servant of God, who preached the tremendous truth of God's Word and shocked the people by describing the woefully un-Biblical and un-church-like state of the American "churches". You see, in modern American churchianity the buildings and meetings are the main part. In the God-run early church, buildings and meetings played but a small part. It was "little show, all go." Today it's "much show, little go." In the trouble ahead buildings and meetings will be just about out for Christians like in all Communist lands, except for small,

secret, and un-official gatherings. It's going to happen. James Robison really loves the Lord, the lost, and has a tremendous testimony. He even gave up a million dollars just because he wants to be free to preach the way God leads him.

After the questioning the police chief (PC) brought us quickly back to the stadium where we heard a tremendous message by James Robison. He said to speak to and bring to the front those who wanted to receive Christ. Pat took a fellow down to receive Christ. I went over and asked a fellow if he was saved, and just then the police chief (PC) grabbed me from behind (right in the meeting during the invitation!) and hauled me out. Robison had really hit at smoking that night and in view of several hundred people in the stands, the PC marched me out forcibly, with a big cigar sticking out of his shirt pocket. The PC said we couldn't counsel or bring anyone to the front. When I said, "But the evangelist said to encourage folks to go forward, because he wouldn't have been saved if someone hadn't brought him to the front", the PC said, "Let the kids make up their own minds." He also said that the head counselor and crusade bosses from the co-operating churches ran the crusade and made the rules, not James Robison. We found this to be true in a phone talk with Robison the next day. The only thing the head counselor told us in our earlier conversations with him was that we should counsel and encourage folks to come down (in the stands) and not come out on the field, yet he had a huddle with the PC both before we were taken to the station and before I was hauled out (Artie saw it) during the invitation. Now Pat hadn't met the head counselor or heard anything, so he's down on the field praying with a teen-guy he took down, who received Christ. Artie, Jimmy, and I (the PC left to get Pat) said a prayer for God's mercy on the PC and the head counselor. This all surprised Jimmy McCurry (the drummer of "Those Five") who'd received Christ a couple days ago and had spent a couple days studying the Bible and memorizing Scripture verses with us on the ranch.

Mind you, the PC told us not to witness! Obey God or man? I walked out into the parking lot and stopped a Spanish Catholic guy who said he believed what the evangelist said but his priest said they couldn't participate in the Crusade, just come and listen. I asked him if he'd like to receive Christ "right here". He did. As we prayed I sensed or felt the PC was walking up, and, sure enough, he was right behind me when we finished praying. The PC said he wanted to talk to me. I said I'd be with him shortly. I told the Spanish fellow to read the book of John. He said he didn't have a Bible, but would get one from his priest. (That night at the youth fellowship a guy came up to me and said

he saw me talking with his Spanish school-mate. I told him that he had received Christ and he promised to follow him up. Praise God!) I walked over to where the PC was talking to the rest of the group (Mom, Artie, Pat, Mary, and I were the only ones who came that night.) He reiterated his order not to witness on the grounds, and said he'd rather we didn't return to the Crusade. There to promote only Christ and to persuade others to receive and to follow him, we were arrested, questioned, ejected, and advised not to return! Not identifying with a recognized denomination is a hardship sometimes. I'd like to but God hasn't led that direction, and I find it helpful in witnessing to the lost of many sects to be just "a Bible-believing Christian". After we were first arrested every time I saw the head counselor he turned his face away and I didn't even get his name. He was nervous and under great strain, but he told us to witness and pray in the stands, and bring folks forward. Got this: I didn't tell you, but, the first night of the Crusade, Faith, and I sang in the choir (the other times we arrived too late), and in the youth fellowship afterward, the whole team sang and testified at the invitation of John McKay, the music director and right-hand man of the evangelist. The evangelist and trumpet-player, Phil Driscoll were there. Phil gave me a couple music tips. So they knew we were Christians, not strangers.

On each of the three nights that we attended I led a teen-guy to Christ in the parking lot. Thank God for fruit. "A true witness delivereth souls," Proverbs 11:13. We're just a bunch of teens for Christ who witness and practice the Word and use the amateur untrained talent we have. Phil Driscoll taught me a little on the guitar and we recorded a cool song he wrote and sang for us. The second night we talked for a couple hours to Ralph McCune, Robison's aide and youth fellowship director who gave me some good advice and pointers. He used to be on Lifeline, a patriotic program.

That night, after all the police trouble, Artie and I met the evangelist leaving the stadium, but I didn't tell him any of what happened, rationalizing that, "He has enough on his mind". (Neither did Artie.) The PC warned us that he'd be at the fellowship; we saw him there. After the Youth Fellowship two girls from a girls home in Whotherford asked for Claudia. She had brought them to the front and prayed with them. They want us to come testify at the home. Another group of kids asked for Claudia. We talked to Ralph McCune afterward, but I didn't divulge any of the unpleasant happenings which had occurred that night, disdaining the thought of bringing up something shockingly unpleasant.

The next day we called James Robison just as he was leaving to go to the stadium. We

told him what happened. He remembered seeing us but knew nothing of what had occurred. He said, "I'm just here at their invitation. If they asked me to leave, I guess I'd have to." So we didn't go back the last night. The police chief said he'd put us in jail!

The hundreds of bewildered watchers in the stands should know the truth, and the rest concerned. We made no disturbance of any kind but remained quiet and prayerful throughout this whole affair. The police chief was only doing as directed. He was bidding us an enjoyable time at the crusade after talking with us on our arrival the last night when the head counselor drew him aside for a moment. Then he said for one of his aides to bring his car around and took us to the station, while the head counselor looked on. No one had asked us to leave. The PC told us the head counselor had laid a complaint against us but never said what it was. What could it be? I can see concern that someone's not proselyting with a false doctrine, but having the police remove by force during a meeting someone who's dealing with a soul to go forward during an invitation shocked me. It's a prelude of things to come. We have no organization for anyone to join, but just preach the Bible. If we had known we weren't wanted I doubt we would have come, for there are many receptive ones who need Christ elsewhere. After the crusade we witnessed to an interested group of Air Force guys in a drive-in for two hours while an officer listened in his car. Three received Jesus Christ!

Some appreciation we got for driving 80 miles three times at our own expense for the sole purpose of encouraging others to receive, follow, and witness Christ! Really, doing it for God, His appreciation is all that counts. It was the church system and its representative that caused all the trouble. The most religious people of Jesus day got the police of His day to crucify Him for the same reason we were ousted from helping at the Crusade--fear of drawing away followers. The love of money is the root of all evil, and followers in a denomination mean money. Most are ignorant, sincere dupes, but my dad was a pastor in a denomination and knows much about denominational finances and hierarchy from the inside out. Do you know what percentage of its take the average denomination uses for missions? About 5%.

It's hard, hard, hard to say, "I'm just with Jesus Christ and anyone who's for Him." Standing for and representing Jesus Christ, and just Him alone, is more difficult than representing one of the sectarian divisions of the body of Christ. When the trouble comes (and it's almost here) denomination will mean nothing. Only, "Are you for or are

you against Jesus Christ?" will matter. We'll continue going into all kinds of churches testifying of what God is doing and is going to do, and urging them to witness to the power of the living Christ and forsake all and follow Him before it's too late. Jesus said, "He that forsaketh not all that he hath cannot be my disciple." (Luko 14:33)

That the American churches on the whole do not follow the Scriptural pattern is clearly shown by the Bible description of the early church. "All that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." (Acts 2:42-47) "And daily in the temple and in every house they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ." (Acts 5:42) Is this true of any American body of believers you know? Or is Rev. 2:4 & 3:16 not true, where God says, "thou hast left thy first love" and "because thou art lukewarm I will spue thee out of my mouth?"

21 The Great Society is already in travail--Spiritually, financially, politically, and with civil strife; so get set for the Great Confusion. The spirit of anti-Christ and his forces are making great headway in every country in every avenue of life. "Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." (Matt. 24:12) This is true right now. Israel is flourishing and the Jews have gotten back Jerusalem. The Anti-Christ is about to be revealed to "confirm the covenant with many for one week (7 years)" (Dan. 9:27) to guarantee the Jews security to build the temple on its holy site.

Billy Graham, when asked what he thought of the Watts rampage, said, "It's a dress rehearsal for the revolution." Newark, Detroit, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Milwaukee, and Chicago are practice tests for the red-black revolution. Let us work while it is day and take heed to Matt. 24:6, "Ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places, (fulfilled) ALL THESE ARE THE BEGINNING OF SORROWS."

There is safety and peace only in Jesus Christ.