

A detailed mosaic of St. Valentine, showing his face in profile, a halo, and a crown. The mosaic is made of small tiles in various colors like gold, red, and grey. The background of the slide is dark, with the mosaic image partially visible on the right side.

# The Real Lesson of Valentine's Day

---

# The Story of St. Valentine

---

---

# Valentine Before the Emperor Claudius

- In the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, Roman Emperor Claudius Gothicus (Marcus Aurelius) arrested a priest named Valentine and had him imprisoned.
- Two days later, he ordered him to be brought before him in his palace and said to him: 'Why do you not make use of my friendship, and live with the commonwealth of our state? I hear marvelous things about your wisdom; yet although you are wise, you cause offence by your vain superstition.'
- Valentine replied: 'If you knew God's gift, you too would rejoice, and your state with you, if you were to reject demons and handmade idols, and to confess one God, the Father omnipotent, and Jesus Christ, His Son, the Creator of all things, "Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all things which are in them".'







# Valentine Charged With Heresy

---

Egged on by his advisors, Claudius accused Valentine of heresy, and handed him over to his prefect, Calpurnius, who in turn handed him over to his chief officer, Asterius, saying:

“If you can reduce him by gentle persuasion, I will report your accomplishment to Claudius, and you will be his friend, and he will enrich you with riches and possessions.”



# Jesus, the Light of the World

---

Asterius led Valentine to his own home. Upon entering, the priest fell to his knees and prayed, saying,

“O God, Maker of all things visible and invisible, and Creator of the human race, Who sent Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ that You might free us from this world and lead us from the shadows to the true light, Who commanded us by saying, “Come unto me all who labor and are heavily laden, and I will refresh you”; convert this house, and grant light to it after the shadows, that it may recognize You as God and Christ in the unity of the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.”

Hearing this, Asterius said: “I admire your good sense, in that you say that your Christ is light.”

In reply Valentine said, “And truly, because Jesus Christ the Lord, Who was born of the Holy Spirit and Mary the virgin, is the true light, Who illuminates every man who comes into this world.”

# Healing the Blind Girl

Asterius replied, saying: 'If He illuminates every man, I shall now establish if He is God; if not, I shall extinguish your folly. I have an adoptive daughter, whom I have loved since infancy, and suddenly two years ago she was blinded. I shall bring her to you; and when she is cured, I will do everything you ask of me.'

Asterius brought the blind girl to Valentine.

Valentine prayed: 'O Lord God Almighty, Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Father of mercies, Who sent Your Son Our Lord Jesus Christ to earth, so that You could lead us from the shadows to the true light, I call upon You as an unworthy sinner.'

And he placed his hand on her eyes, saying: 'Lord Jesus Christ, illuminate Your servant, because You are the true light.' And when he had said this, her eyes were opened.

Asterius and his household prayed to receive Christ and were baptized. Valentine disciplined them for the next month. There were 45 people in the household.



# The Martyrdom of St. Valentine

- Claudius summoned Asterius, who informed him that his daughter had been healed of blindness and that he had been baptized by Valentine in the name of Christ, together with his entire household.
- Enraged, Claudius sent soldiers, and arrested all those whom he found in the house of Asterius commanding that Asterius, with all his household, be led in chains to Ostia, there to undergo trial with interrogation by means of torture.
- The emperor Claudius then orders that Valentine be beaten with staves and then put to death.
- Valentine was beheaded on the Via Flaminia on February 14th.





# Orwell's 1984

- Big Brother could see everything.
- He could discover your greatest fear.
- Winston Smith loved Julia but was afraid of rats.
- He gave up Julia when they confronted him with the rats.
- "Do it to her," he shouted. "Do it to her."
- Winston betrays Julia. She later tells him, "I betrayed you also."





# Babylon 600 B.C.

- Three teenagers faced the flames.
  - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
- King Nebuchadnezzar built a 100 foot tall golden statue
- At the behest of jealous magi, he ordered everyone to worship it
- Everyone bowed down except the three teenagers.
- Nebuchadnezzar sentenced them immediately to die in the flames



## The Response of True Faith

“If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O King. But even if he does not we want you to know, oh king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

Daniel 3:17-18



# Many Flee the Flames

- “Far more people deny Christ because of ridicule than because of persecution.”
- Peer pressure is a powerful deterrent to evangelism.
- Fear of looking like a fool keeps many from sharing their faith.
- For most of the church age, Christians have been persecuted and many have chosen to camouflage themselves.
  - Big question in early church: “What to do with unbaptized believers?”
  - The problem of bicultural Christians in today’s church (Barna Study)
    - 20% of evangelical Protestants have a Biblical worldview
    - 2% of those 18 to 29 years old possess a biblical worldview.
  - Many have a “situational” faith.



What If Today's Ridicule Is  
The Precursor To  
Tomorrow's Persecution?





# Others Joyfully Enter the Furnace

- The faith of Paul: “He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us.”

2 Cor 1:10

- David could face Goliath because He was faithful when he was all alone: “The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.”

1 Samuel 17:37

- The OT prophets were brave men of faith. Isaiah was sawn in two according to the Jewish historians. “You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.”

Isaiah 26:3



# Faith That Enters The Furnace is Free From Guarantees

- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abenego:  
“Whether God delivers us or not, that is his choice.”
- Job: “Though he slay me, yet will I serve him”.
- Paul: “For me to live is Christ and to die is gain”.
- Jesus: “If there be any other way, yet not my will but thine be done.”



# And Free From the Fear of Death

---

- Hebrews 2:15 – “Jesus has come to free those who were kept in slavery by Satan through their fear of death.”
- Paul: “I want to know the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings.”



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](#)



# Sometimes God Delivers Miraculously

- Verse 3:24 and following:
- Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" They replied, "Certainly, O king."
- He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."
- Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.
- Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.
- Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way."
- Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.



# And Sometimes, He Does Not

Jim Elliott: In 1949 he wrote in his journal,

**“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot *lose*.”**

- In 1948, he was elected the president of Foreign Mission Fellowship and was part of the Gospel team during the summer. In one of his notebooks he wrote that year, "God, I pray Thee, light these idle sticks of my life and may I burn for Thee. Consume my life, my God, for it is Thine. I seek not a long life, but a full one, like you, Lord Jesus."
- In 1956, Jim Elliott's life came to an end with five other missionaries in Ecuador as they were attacked by 30 Auca Indians. His story has been an inspiration to thousands of others.



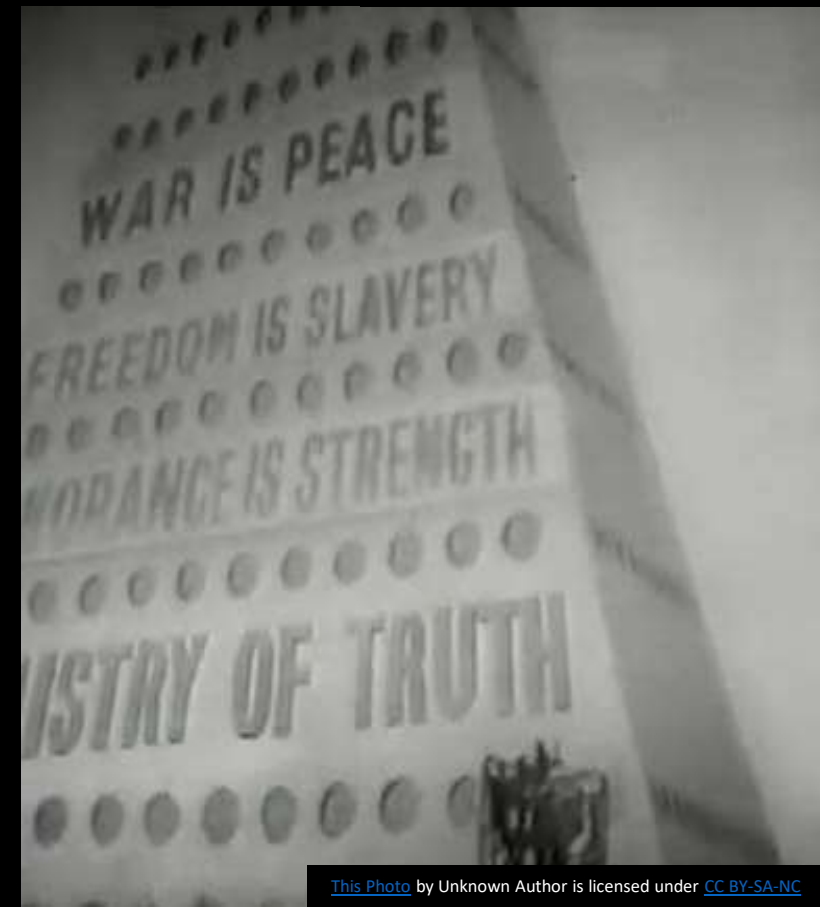


- “*Nineteen Eighty-Four* occurs in [Oceania](#), one of three intercontinental super-states who divided the world among themselves after a global war. Most of the action takes place in London, the “chief city of [Airstrip One](#)”,<sup>[22]</sup> the Oceanic province that “had once been called England or Britain”.<sup>[23]</sup> Posters of the Party leader, [Big Brother](#), bearing the caption **BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU** attack the landscape, while the *telescreen* ([transceiving](#) television) ubiquitously monitors the private and public lives of the populace. The [social class](#) system is threefold:
- (I) the upper-class [Inner Party](#), (II) the middle-class [Outer Party](#), and (III) the lower-class [Proles](#) (from Proletariat), who make up 85% of the population and represent the working class.
- As the government, the Party controls the population via four government ministries: the [Ministry of Peace](#), [Ministry of Plenty](#), [Ministry of Love](#), and the [Ministry of Truth](#), where protagonist [Winston Smith](#) (a member of the Outer Party), works as an [editor revising historical records](#) to concord the past to the contemporary [party line](#) orthodoxy—that changes daily—and deletes the official existence of people identified as [unpersons](#). he perpetually rewrites records and alters photographs, rendering the deleted people as unpersons; the original document is incinerated in a [memory hole](#). Despite enjoying the intellectual challenge of historical revisionism, he is fascinated by the *true* past, and eagerly tries to learn more about it. “

1984, by George Orwell



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA-NC](#)



What Should  
We Do To Avoid  
1984 Coming to  
America?



# Pray For Our Leaders

- I Timothy 2:1-4 - I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.
- **Never forget that the leaders of our government are engaged in a spiritual war whether or not they are believers.**





# God's People are Called to Repent

- 2 Chronicles 7:13-14 - “When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land **or send a plague among my people**, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.
- God's purpose throughout the Old Testament in sending suffering to his people was so that his people would turn to Him for relief and be blessed.

