

# *By Faith...*

## *Prophets and Martyrs*

**Read:** Hebrews 11:32-38

In the beginning of today's passage, we read about prophets and martyrs in the Old Testament, but there are many, many more we could talk about.

**Read:** Acts 7:54-60; Acts 12:1-5; Revelation 1:9

We could also talk about Peter, Polycarp, William Tyndale, countless missionaries, and other believers who are persecuted for their faith. Whether they were imprisoned, beaten, or killed it takes great faith to stand up for what you believe in when you know without a doubt that there are consequences.

**How do we see persecution in the world today?**

**Read:** John 15:20

**In what ways do we face persecution for our faith personally?**

**Read:** 2 Timothy 3:12

Paul's last words are recorded in 2 Timothy. He wrote them while he was imprisoned, shortly before being put to death by the Emperor Nero. When you read the book with that in mind, it really changes its impact. So while we don't normally have homework, I encourage you to read that book this week. While reading, think about what Paul must have been thinking and feeling while he was writing them. Think about how important they were to him, and what they mean to you.