

I Desire to Die

by Ignatius of Antioch

Ignatius of Antioch desires to die for Christ, embracing suffering and persecution as a means to attain complete devotion to Him.

Scripture: Matthew 16:24, Romans 8:35, Philippians 1:21, 1 Peter 4:16, Revelation 2:10

Topics: "Martyrdom", "Persecution"

Description

Ignatius of Antioch passionately expresses his willingness to endure persecution and suffering for the sake of his faith in Jesus Christ. He acknowledges the challenges he faces, including being bound by soldiers and facing wild beasts, but remains steadfast in his commitment to follow Christ, even if it means enduring extreme hardships and martyrdom. Ignatius desires to be consumed by the wild beasts as a sacrifice for his faith, demonstrating his unwavering devotion to Jesus above all else.

Transcript

From Syria even unto Rome I fight with beasts, both by land and sea, both by night and day, being bound to ten leopards, I mean a band of soldiers, who, even when they receive benefits, show themselves all the worse. But I am the more instructed by their injuries [to act as a disciple of Christ]; "yet am I not thereby justified." May I enjoy the wild beasts that are prepared for me; and I pray that they may be found eager to rush upon me, which also I will entice to devour me speedily, and not deal with me as with some, whom, out of fear, they have not touched.

But if they be unwilling to assail me, I will compel them to do so. Pardon me [in this] I know what is for my benefit.

Now I begin to be a disciple, and have no desire after anything visible or invisible, that I may attain to Jesus Christ. Let fire and the cross; let the crowds of wild beasts; let breakings, tearings, and separations of bones; let cutting off of members; let bruising to pieces of the whole body; and let the very torment of the devil come upon me: only let me attain to Jesus Christ.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/ignatius-of-antioch/i-desire-to-die/>

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