

# Martyrdom

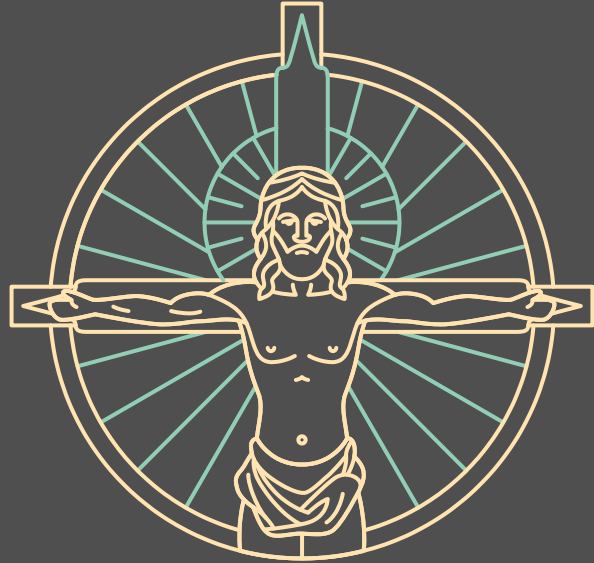
“It is a faithful saying: for if we were dead with Him,  
we shall also live with Him.” - 2 Timothy 2:11



# What is Martyrdom?

The word *martyr* is derived from the ancient Greek word for witness

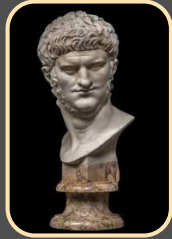
Began with the Jews persecuting Christians until pagan Rome tried to destroy Christianity as a whole





# Emperors Of The Roman Empire

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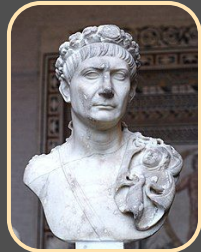
## Nero

Began the first persecution of Christians: 54 - 68 AD



## Domitian

Referred himself to the title Lord and God: 81 - 96 AD



## Trajan

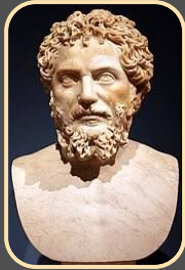
Persecuted Christians, martyred Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, and Simeon, the Bishop of Jerusalem: 97 - 117 AD



## Marcus Aurelius

First emperor to actively look for Christians & spread propaganda against Christianity: 161 - 180 AD

# Emperors Of The Roman Empire



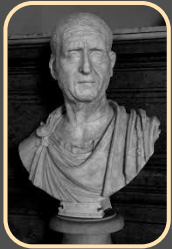
## Septimius Severus

Tried to persecute all Christians, forbade conversion from Judaism to Christianity: 193 - 211 AD



## Gaius Julius Verus Maximinus Thrax

Barbarian, was evil in his persecution of Christians: 235 - 238 AD



## Decius

Decided to kill all Priests and Bishops, Christians couldn't express their faith: 249 - 251 AD



## Valerian

Banned Christians from expressing their religion: 253 - 260 AD

# Emperors Of The Roman Empire



## Aurelian

Persecuted people who followed Christians:  
270 - 275 AD



## Diocletian

Our Coptic Orthodox Church created its own calendar of the Martyrs by the first year he reigned: 284 - 305 AD



## Constantine The Great

Ended up adopting Christianity as the main religion of the Roman Empire: 305 - 337 AD

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# Types of Martyrs

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- ❖ Died for the sake of faith
- ❖ Died for the sake of purity
  - St. Theodora
  - St. Veronica
- ❖ Died for the sake of dogma
  - Pope Discorus
  - St. Theodorus







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# The Tortures of the Martyrs

# Types of Tortures



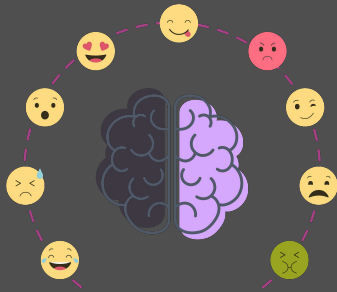
## Mentally

They faced degrading insults, their possessions and wealth were taken



## Physically

Faced prison and intense physical tortures



## Emotionally

Took situations full of emotional hardship and gained joy and peace

# St. Stephen: The First Martyr

“And all that sat in the council, looking steadfastly on him, saw his face as if it had been the face of an angel” (Acts 6:15)

His face looked like the face of an angel because of:

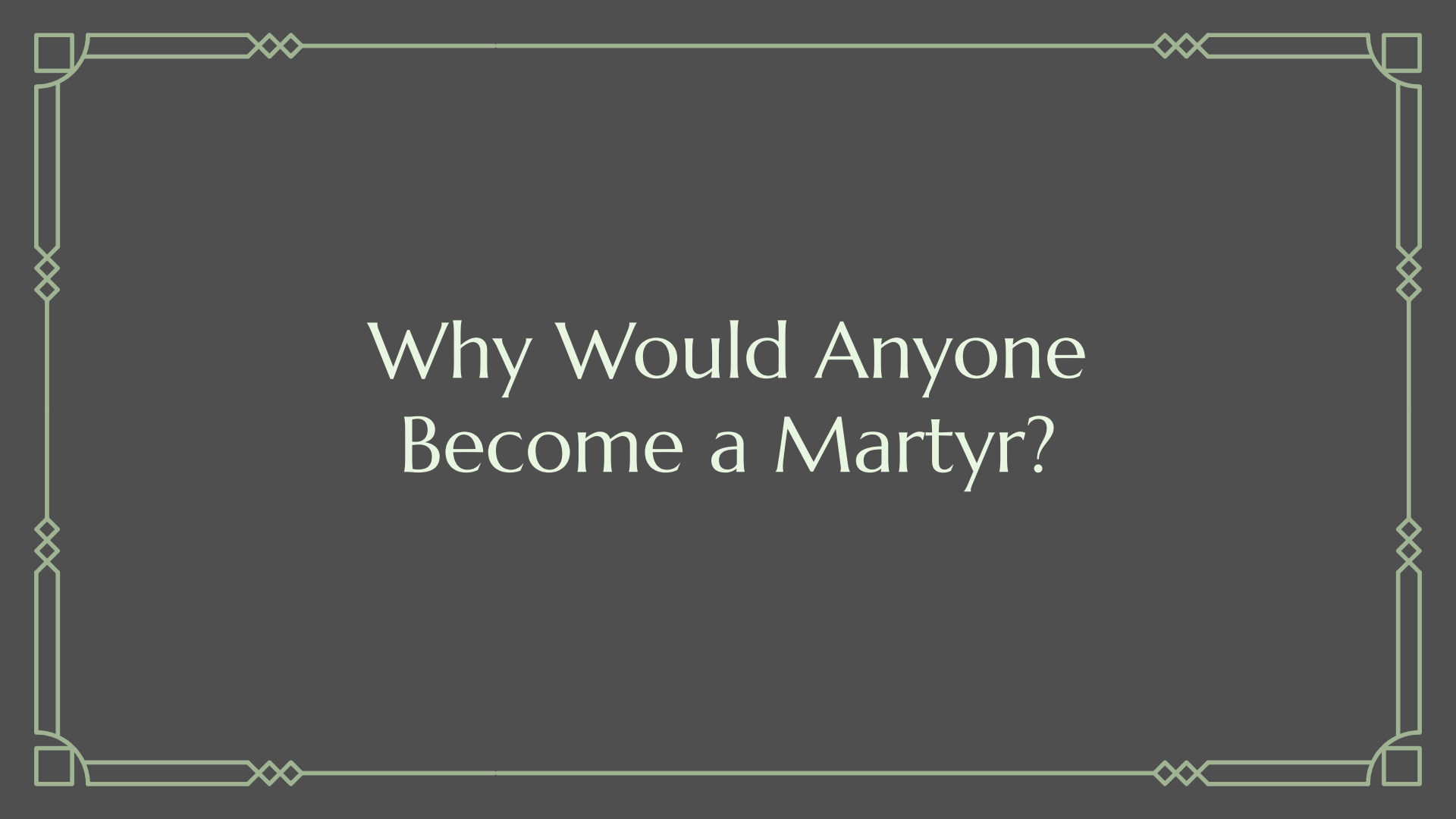
- ❖ God's Grace
- ❖ The compassion & prayers of the church
- ❖ The feeling of honour that they are partners of pain with the Saviour
- ❖ Visions of heavenly glory





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## Evaluating Martyrdom



Why Would Anyone  
Become a Martyr?

# Why Would Someone Want to Become a Martyr?

## Desire

Martyrdom was not suicide or foolishness - martyrs loved Christ and refused to deny their faith

## Courage

The martyrs had a virtuous courage - through their blood, the seeds of Christianity were watered



# Why Would Someone Want to Become a Martyr?



## Evangelize

Through their steadfast faith, many were converted

They demonstrated their beliefs through their actions, not only by their words

“In devouring the sheep, the wolves became sheep.” - Tertullian

# Martyrdom is Practical Proof of the Validity of Our Faith

Steadfast & Enduring

Purity & Holiness

Ι̅Η̅C̅

Π̅Χ̅C̅

Meekness

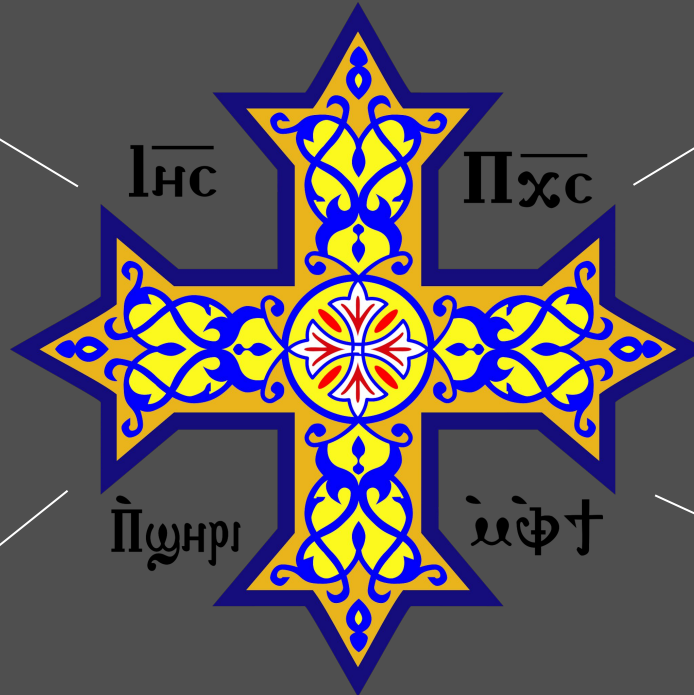
Hating worldly influences

Π̅Ω̅Η̅Ρ̅Ι̅

Ϊ̅Ψ̅†

Love towards enemies

Desire for heavenly things







How can we apply what we  
have learned from the  
martyrs in our own lives?

# So What?

Relating martyrdom to personal life through endurance and perseverance

Lessons from martyrdom are also applicable to our services at church



“if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.” - 1 Peter 4:14-16



Thank You!