



People of Faith

Being Walled In?

In the 16th century, Philip II sent the Duke of Alba to Flanders to stamp out the Protestants who insisted on reading the Scriptures in their own language. Anyone found studying the Bible was hanged, drowned, torn in pieces, or burned alive at the stake. The Inquisitors found a Bible while inspecting the house of the Mayor of Brugge. One by one, family members were questioned, but everyone claimed they knew nothing about how the Bible got to their house.

*Wrunken
Roneses*

Finally the officials asked the young maid-servant, Wrunken, who boldly declared, “This book is mine. I am reading it, and it is more precious to me than anything!”

She was sentenced to die by suffocation. A place would be hollowed in the city wall, she would be tied in it, and the opening would be bricked over. Wrunken replied, “My Savior died for me. I will also die for Him.” As the bricks were laid higher and higher, she was warned again. “You will suffocate and die in here!” “I will be with Jesus,” she answered.

Finally, the wall was finished, except for the one brick that would cover her face. For the last time, the official tried to persuade her. “Repent – just say the word and you will go free.” But Wrunken refused, saying instead, “O Lord, forgive my murderers.” [*Jesus Freaks: Martyrs dc Talk and the Voice of the Martyrs*]

How ironic that this attempt to wall up the word of God resulted in generations knowing about the faith of Wrunken Roneses.



What things cause us to keep our faith to ourselves?



What ways does the world try to wall in the word of God?