

10.21.18 ~ **John 15:17-27**, Who Does the World Hate?

See John 15:17... We are to love one another because God loves us; in fact, God is love (as we studied last week), so if we belong to God we are programmed and equipped to love others as God has loved us.

If we belong to God we will (**1John 4:7**) love one another, the truth is (**1John 4:8**) God is love. Those who believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior (**1John 5:1**) are born of God (cf **John 1:13; 3:8**); and those who love God (**1John 5:2**) both love God's children and obey God's commands.

See John 15:18-19... The world disregards, rejects and opposes God and His Word (originally given in 66 Books), the Bible, which has been revealed to us through God's Spirit who indwells every person who has repented of their sins and believed in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

The "world" refers to all who oppose God's Son and reject God's Word, those who serve their flesh and the devil.

The world accepts its own (unbelievers), but it hates those (believers) who belong to and proclaim Christ. Did you know that Jesus' own brothers did not believe in Him, they belonged to the world until after He died and rose from the dead (see **John 7:7**).

See John 15:20-21... Jesus reiterates what He has already told them in **John 13:16-20; 14:24**. Paul tells us (**2Timothy 3:12**), those who follow Jesus Christ will suffer at the hands of those who reject Him.

See John 15:22-25... Israel rejected Jesus as their Messiah (**verse 22**), and are without excuse (see **John 1:1-3, 14, 18, 29**); for they are guilty of the greatest sin, not believing in God's Son (see **John 16:8**), and those who reject Jesus (**verse 23**), also reject the Father.

Jesus says (**verse 24**) the Jews are guilty because of the teachings and miracles He did before them, which could only come from God: healing the sick, making the lame walk, giving sight to the blind, raising the dead.

As we have studied in the past, the Jews [religious leaders] not only rejected Jesus as the Messiah, they hated Him, and they repeatedly conspired to kill Him.

Look at **John 10:30-33...** Because Jesus told the truth — that He was indeed the Son of God, equal to God the Father, yet submissive to Him while in the flesh of a human — they sought to kill Him.

Look at **John 11:45-53...** After Jesus raised Lazarus, the religious leaders of Israel set their hearts to kill Him.

Back to **John 15:25...** God's Word does not return void, but always fulfills God's purpose and plan. The quote here, "They hated Me without cause," is from two Psalms of David (35:19; 69:4).

Jesus' reason for referencing these Psalms is to make the point that even David, the renowned king of Israel, was hated by his enemies; how much more then, should we expect the Son of God to be hated, unjustifiably, because He pointed out sin and declared Himself to be God our Savior (see **John 6:28-29; 8:24; 10:30**).

Jesus came to save Israel, yet He pointed out their sins and the penalty for sin; but He offered forgiveness to all those who would repent of their sins and believe in Him, as Savior. Neither religious rituals, ceremonies, animal sacrifices, or being related to Abraham by blood, can justify a person [make them righteous] before God.

See John 15:26-27... We started today's lesson with **John 15:17**, where Jesus commands His followers (that includes us), to "love one another."

Last week we began our study with **John 15:12**, where Jesus commands His followers to love one another, as He has loved them; meaning, of course, His life was sacrificed for them and for everyone who would believe.

Proof of belonging to God through Christ, was then, is now, and always will be, expressed through our obedience to the Word of God which has come through Christ to all who believe in Him.

In **John 15:26-27**, Jesus repeats something He had already said to them (see **John 14:15-17, 23-26**).

He is going to be taken away from them very soon, at which time He will be put to death and placed in a tomb, but on the 3rd day He will rise from the grave, and He will show Himself to His followers over a period of 40 days; after which, He will return to the Father in heaven.

Jesus previously told His disciples (cf. John 14:2-3), that He was going away, but He would come back to take them to be with Him; and He tells them (cf. John 14:18, 28) He won't leave them as orphans, but will come back to them, in John 14:29 He says, "I have told you before it happens, so when it does happen you may believe."

Look at **John 14:16-17...** Jesus promised to send them a Helper [Greek, *Paracletos*, it is translated as Counselor, Comforter, Mediator, Advocate]; but *Paracletos* designates that the Helper, to be sent by the Son, from the Father, is of the same kind [as Jesus], i.e., equal to God. The Helper is the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of Truth.

We read in **John 15:26-27**, that when the Helper comes to them, He will teach them and enable them to testify about Jesus Christ [God's Son, Lord and Savior].

These guys have been with Jesus since the beginning of His ministry they will give eyewitness testimonies of what Jesus said and did (cf. **1John 1:1-3**).

If you know the love of God through Christ, you will want to serve Him by doing that which pleases Him.

Our priority, as believers and followers of Christ, is to share the message of forgiveness for sin and eternal life, that is available to everyone who believes in Jesus Christ.

Let us remain alert and sober minded, aware that the world (made up of all those who oppose God) hated Jesus first; and so they hate Christians who serve the Lord by honoring, obeying, and proclaiming God's Word.

2Timothy 3:12-13, "everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived."

Most all of us will die on this earth, yet Jesus says:

John 11:25-26, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die."

We have nothing to fear from this world, anyone or anything in this world, because as God's children, born again by the Spirit of God, we have eternal life in heaven, where we are protected by God and there will not be anymore death or mourning or crying or pain.

1John 5:4-5, "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"

1John 5:11-13, "And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life."

Pastor Mike
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