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The Hatred of the World Towards God

John 15:18-16:4

We come to church to be encouraged, to gain strength to live right in this corrupt world. We want to hear uplifting sermons that help us through our difficult times during the week. The disciples were the same way. They came to Jesus because they wanted to hear Him speak. He spoke among the people with authority (Mark 1:22). He demonstrated the power of God by healing people, forgiving sins and making people whole. Many Jews expected great things to happen through Jesus. They were anticipating that He would establish His kingdom on earth (Matthew 20:21). The disciples **loved listening to Jesus most of the time**. At times Jesus talked about the coming problems and His death. And the disciples did not like it (Matthew 16:21-23). This is one of those times. Did you hear the last sentence I read? Jesus told His disciples, "*And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you*" (John 16:4). Jesus intentionally did not tell His disciples about their coming persecution. He was with them, protecting them from the evil of the world. Now He is going away and the world is going to hate His disciples and kill them because of their association with and obedience to Jesus. They needed to be informed and prepared for what was ahead.

John 15:18 Jesus said, "*If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you*." When did this hatred get started? Why is there so much hatred of Christ and His followers? It all got started along time ago. After Eve was deceived by Satan and after Adam intentionally sinned, the Lord God brought a curse upon Satan. He would be cursed more than all the creatures God had made. The Lord God said, "*And **I will put enmity** between you and the woman and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heal*" (Genesis 3:15). God put hatred, hostility between Eve and Satan and between his seed and her Seed. We are not given details about the problems between Eve and Satan. What we do see are the problems and hatred between the offspring of Eve and the offspring Satan.

The first offspring of Eve mentioned were Cain and Abel. Satan does not have offspring like humans do. His offspring are those who allow their sinful nature to control them. Satan won this first battle over Eve's offspring. **Cain chose to let sin rule over him**. He could have chosen to rule over his sinful nature, but he did not. He let hatred win. This is how Satan has offspring. Abel, the righteous one, the accepted one was murdered by his brother. Satan may have viewed Abel as the "*Seed*" that would bruise or crush his head. He quickly ended that threat. But God brought another line, Seth. His name means appointed. "*And Adam knew his wife*

*again, and she bore a son and named him **Seth**, 'For God has **appointed** another **seed** for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed.' And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then **men began to call on the name of the Lord**"* (Genesis 4:25-26) from this line. The Bible is the battle of Satan and his offspring, those who have chosen to let their sinful nature rule them, and the seed of the woman who would bring salvation to humanity through the line of Seth.

We know that the One Seed of the woman who would bring salvation to humanity is Jesus Christ, God in human flesh, offering His perfect life for the sins of the world. **Satan's offspring are all those who allow their sinful nature to rule their lives**. The culmination of this hatred between Jesus and Satan was seen in the arrest, trials, and crucifixion of Jesus. Satan thought he won when he got the leaders of the Jewish religion to hate and crucify the only One who could bring salvation to all humanity, who were dead in their own sins (John 8:44 / Ephesians 2:1-2). Satan thought he had defied God and crushed the head of the Seed. But God and His word proved true. Satan only crushed the heal of the Seed. Jesus rose from the dead! The resurrection of Jesus was the crushing blow that destroyed the power of the devil (1 John 3:8). He has no power over death anymore (1 Corinthians 15:54-58).

But Satan is still alive and well on planet earth until his end comes. His destiny is sure. He will be "*cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are*" (Revelation 20:10). Why would God wait until the end to remove Satan from this planet? Why not do it now? I would vote for his removal now. **God still gives every person a choice** in their lives between following Jesus or doing evil. It is the choice every person has. God is not willing for anyone to perish (2 Peter 3:9). He calls upon everyone to repent. Turn from the hatred of the world. Turn from your sinful nature and turn to Jesus and follow Him.

Verse 19 Jesus said, "*If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you*." There are only **2 groups of people** in the world. There are those who are "***of the world***." And there are those that **Jesus chose out of the world**. Who are those who are "*of the world*"? These people are all those who love the darkness rather than the light, whose deeds are evil. They practice evil and love those who practice evil. They hate the light because they do not want their sin exposed (John 3:19-20). **Who are those people Jesus has chosen?** These are the people who have come to the light. Their sinful deeds are exposed. They see their need for forgiveness. They repent of their sins. They believe and trust in God's sacrifice for their sins. They now practice the truth. (3:21). Like Jesus, His followers are hated because they left the world and let the world know it's evil works (John 7:7).

Verses 20-21 Jesus said, "*Remember the word that I said to you*, '*A servant is not greater than his master*.' ***If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you****. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also*. *But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me*." It has not been long for the disciples since Jesus had taught them this truth. He had washed the disciples' feet and gave them this same truth (13:13-17). **How our Master acts, we are to act. How our Master is treated, we will be treated**. This is one promise that will not be found in our Bible promise books. Can persecution be avoided? Sure. Jesus avoided some persecution because it was not "His time" yet. He never avoided all persecution. **Jesus confronted** hypocrisy, sin, unacceptable traditions and lies. He spoke the truth. And He was killed because people would not listen or change. They hated Him and they also died believing a lie and lost everything. Will you? The unbelieving hostile world does not know the One True Living God. Do you?

Verses 22-23 Jesus said, "*If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me hates My Father also*." What is Jesus saying here? **What Jesus is not saying is** that if He had never come and spoken to these people, they would all be sinless. The truth is, "*all we like sheep have gone astray.*" (Isaiah 53:6). **What Jesus is saying is** that if He had not spoken to them, they would not be held responsible for rejecting Him and God the Father whom He has revealed. But Jesus has come. He has revealed the truth through His words and through His actions. At the judgment, these of all people will be without excuse for rejecting the One who gives life.

Verses 24-25 Jesus said, "*If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law*, '*They hated Me without a cause*.'" Again, Jesus emphasized the importance of what has been revealed to these Jews. We are all responsible for what God has revealed to us. **No one is responsible for what has not been revealed to them**. Everyone is responsible for what has been revealed to them. What has been revealed to everyone in the world? **Everyone, no matter what religion they practice, everyone knows they are sinful**. You could claim ignorance, but you would be lying. Your conscience will bear this out in your judgment. Different religions were started to deal with our guilt. What most people in the world do not know is what God has done to deal with everyone's sin and guilt. Because God loves sinful humanity so much, He came to this world in a human body we know as Jesus, to pay the debt for everyone's sin and guilt. This is God's grace. The means by which we are forgiven is through faith in what God has done for us. We are without excuse.

Some people will claim that they can believe in and worship God without or apart from Jesus. **The truth is God would always, always, always, command people to believe in Jesus in order to know Him** (John 3:16-21). This is why Jesus reveals that if people hate Him, they also hate God the Father. Jesus and the Father are One God and are not divided on this truth. If the god people are worshiping does not command them to believe in Jesus, their god is the devil. Flee from the devil. Come to the One true God through faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. John quotes Psalm 69: 4 "*They hated Me without a cause*" God has done nothing to cause anyone to hate Him. You might disagree. You may question some things. Job did. Our big problem is we do not understand God and how He works. Everything God does is ultimately for our benefit. There is no good reason to hate God or Jesus.

Verses 26-27 "*But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning*." God will continue to reveal these truths to people. Some will believe. Some will not. The disciples of Jesus are to be a witness of these truths, encouraging people to believe. As disciples of Jesus, we may be persecuted. Do not let persecution cause you to stumble (Mark 4:16-17). Persecutions are coming. Stand firm in your faith in Jesus.

16:1-2 Jesus said, "*These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.*" Saul, who we know as Paul, persecuted the church and thought he was doing a great service to God, until he encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus (Acts 9). **Verses 3-4** "*And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me. But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them. And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you*." Those who know God the Father know Jesus. Those who know Jesus know God. If you try to end this hatred between Christians and the world, you will compromise your love for Jesus with those who continue to live in their sin. Our only action to take is the same action Jesus took. Live a godly life. Love your enemies. Call on people to repent of their sin and trust in the only sacrifice that brings true forgiveness.

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