

The Gospel According to John “Preparation for Persecution”

John 15:16-27



John 15:16-17

“You did not choose Me but I chose you,
and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit,
and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever
you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.
This I command you, that you love one another.”

John 15:18-20

“If the world hates you,
know that it has hated Me before it hated you.
If you were of the world, the world would love its own;
but because you are not of the world, but I chose you
out of the world, because of this the world hates you.
Remember the word that I said to you,
‘A slave 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.”

John 15:21-25

“But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well. But they have done this to fulfill the word that is written in their Law, *‘They hated Me without a cause.’*”

John 15:26-27

“When the Helper comes,
whom I will send to you from the Father,
that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father,
He will testify about Me, and you will testify also,
because you have been with Me from the beginning.”

Main Idea

The world hates God and will hate Jesus' disciples because they preach and live God's truth, so we ought to prepare for persecution by taking hold of Christ and the helps He gives.

Background

John 15:16-17

“You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain.”

John 17:18

“As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.”

What is “the world”?

The world is this whole realm of darkness, evil, hatred, and disbelief; but more specifically, the world is the corrupted and condemned ***people*** who dwell in it and who love the darkness and reject the Light.

Preparation for Persecution

The world hates God.



Romans 1:28-30

And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil...**they are haters of God...**

The world hates God.

They hate Jesus, God's Son.

John 15:18

“If the world hates you,
know that **it has hated Me before you.**”

John 15:24

“If I had not done among them the works
which no one else did, they would not have sin;
but **now they have both seen and hated Me...**”

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John 15:22

“If I had not come and spoken to them,

they would not have sin,
but now they have no excuse for their sin.”

Jesus was not saying that they didn't have sin before He came but that His coming exposed their sin for what it was and removed every pretense of their piety.

John 15:22

...now they have no excuse for their sin.

John 15:24

“...they have both seen and hated Me...”

Why?

John 15:25

“They have done this to fulfill the word that is written in their Law, *‘They hated me without a cause.’*”

Psalm 69:4

Those who hate me without a cause are more
than the hairs of my head;
Those who would destroy me are powerful,
being wrongfully my enemies.

But why?

John 7:7

“The world...hates Me because I testify of it,
that its deeds are evil.”

Jesus' works testified to His identity
and His words proclaimed the
gospel and their need for a Savior,
and they hated Him for it.

The world hates God.

They hate Jesus, God's Son.

They hate the Father.

John 15:23

“He who hates Me hates My Father also.”

John 15:24-25

“...but now they have both seen and hated Me
and My Father as well.”

The Pharisees claimed to love God while rejecting Jesus,
but Jesus is the very Son of God and came in the
authority of God with the message of God.

To reject Jesus is to reject God!

We worship God and love God,
but the Father has sent His Son as His perfect
image bearer and intends for us to know
and love Him *through* His Son.

For this reason, the church will be weak
at best if she does not labor to make
Christ central to all she does and says.

Preparation for Persecution

The world hates God.

The world hates Jesus' disciples.



John 15:16 and 19

“You did not choose Me but I chose you,
and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit...”

The Lord did not choose and appoint His disciples
for passivity but for proclamation.

Proclamation should not be separated from
demonstration, and this is why we say that we are
declaring *and* displaying the gospel together!

The world hates Jesus' disciples.

They hate the message
His disciples preach.

John 15:20

“Remember the word that I said to you,
‘A slave 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.”

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Persecution is contrasted with an acceptance
and keeping of Jesus’ word.

Persecution results from proclamation.

John 15:22

“If I had not come **and spoken to them**, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.”

Jesus' message was offensive because it called people to account for their sin and declared to them their need for a Savior.

What about us?

John 17:14

“I have given them Your word;
and the world has hated them.”

The world hates the disciples of Jesus
because they have been given His word,
and they proclaim it.

If you faithfully proclaim the
gospel of Christ to the world,
you will be hated.

The world hates Jesus' disciples.

They hate the message His disciples preach.

They hate the life His disciples live.

John 15:18

“If the world hates you,
know that it has hated Me before it hated you.”

Remember, the hatred the people have
for us is tied to their hatred for Jesus,
the perfect image of God.

But what is our calling?

Ephesians 5:1

Be imitators of God, as beloved children.

Matthew 5:16

“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

We are to live lives that testifies to the gospel of Christ and to the glory of His Father; but the world hates Christ and His Father, so they will hate the Christian life.

Ephesians 5:7-8 and 11

Therefore do not be partakers with them;
for you were formerly darkness,
but now you are Light in the Lord;
walk as children of Light.

Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness,
but instead even expose them.

But remember...

John 3:19-20

“This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.”

If you understand these things,
you will be less surprised and
better prepared when the world
vilifies your values.

Preparation for Persecution

The world hates God.

The world hates Jesus' disciples.

So, we should prepare for persecution.



We should prepare for persecution.

By accepting that it *will* come.

2 Timothy 3:12

Indeed, **all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus**
will be persecuted.

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Why?

John 15:19

“If you were of the world, the world would love its own;
but because you are not of the world,
but I chose you out of the world,
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It is tempting to believe that if we will simply love our neighbors well, we will win them over with kindness.

But note:

The world only loves its own!

We should prepare for persecution.

By accepting that it will come.

Take hold of Christ and the helps
He has given us.

Take hold of Christ!

John 15:19

“You are not of this world,
but **I chose you** out of the world.”

Jesus reminds us that He chose us
and rescued us from this world;
so, we belong to Him.

This is your hope!

Take hold of the helps He gives!

He gives the Helper.

John 15:26-27

“When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.”

Jesus has given us the Holy Spirit,
the Helper, who will testify of Christ,
enlightening us and empowering us
to fulfill our calling.

Take hold of Him!

Take hold of the helps He gives!

He gives Apostolic witness.

John 15:27

“He will testify about Me, **and you will testify also,**
because you have been with Me from the beginning.”

Jesus spoke through His Apostles
and by them provided us with
a written testimony of His person,
His work, and His mission.

Take hold of this witness!

Take hold of the helps He gives!

He gives the church.

John 15:16-17

“I...appointed you that you would go and bear fruit,
and that your fruit would remain.”

Matthew 16:18

“...upon this rock **I will build My church;**
and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”

Take hold of the helps He gives!
He gives the church.

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Matthew 16:18

“...upon this rock I will build My church;
**and the gates of Hades will not
overpower it.**”

Jesus is building His invincible Church,
His community of saints who are on mission
together and who love one another.

John 15:17

“This I command you, that you love one another.”

Take hold of this community!

Concluding Helps

Have you taken hold of Christ
for your salvation?

Are you willing to suffer with Him?

Are you preparing for persecution?