

DESPISED BY THE WORLD
(John 15:17-25)

- I. The World Hates Believers Because It Rejects Those Who Are ALIEN (John 15:18a, 19)
 - A. Its RULER hates believers (Eph. 6:11; 1 Peter 5:8)
 - B. The world APPLAUDS those who do EVIL (Rom. 1:32)
 - C. The world RESENTS believers because they are DIFFERENT
 - 1. Christ has CHOSEN us to STAND APART from the world (Eph. 5:11; Phil. 2:15)
 - 2. Our GODLY lives CONDEMN the world's evil (Prov. 29:27; 1 Peter 4:3-4; 1 John 3:12)
 - 3. We should expect the world to HATE us
- II. The World Hates Believers Because It HATED JESUS (John 15:18b, 20-21a)
 - A. Their hatred is really AIMED at JESUS
 - 1. He exercised AUTHORITY over Jewish TRADITIONS (John 5:16)
 - 2. He claimed EQUALITY with GOD (John 5:18; 7:1, 32; 8:59; 10:31; 11:47-53)
 - B. Jesus' slaves could not expect to be treated BETTER than their MASTER (cf. 13:16)
 - C. Since they PERSECUTED Jesus, they will also PERSECUTE us (cf. Matt. 10:24-25; Phil. 3:10)
 - D. Those who KEEP His word will keep OURS as well

1. Some will BELIEVE in Christ through THEIR ministry
2. This will be one source of the JOY Jesus promised (15:11)

III. The World Hates Believers Because It Does Not KNOW GOD (John 15:21*b*-25)

- A. They do not know the One who SENT JESUS (cf. Rom. 1:18-21; 8:7-8; Eph. 4:18)
- B. Their culpability is GREATER for having SEEN and HEARD Christ
- C. Hatred for Jesus INCLUDES hatred for the Father
- D. Their hatred is included in GOD'S PLAN (cf. Pss. 35:19; 69:4)

IV. The World's Hatred of Believers Has Been Demonstrated throughout History

- A. The JEWS persecuted the first GENERATION Christians
- B. ROME persecuted the EARLY CHURCH
- C. The CATHOLIC CHURCH persecuted TRUE BELIEVERS
- D. Persecution has INTENSIFIED worldwide in the last century