

John 15:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

Analysis

Jesus transitions from love within the church to hatred from the world. The world's hatred of believers stems from its prior hatred of Christ—opposition to Christians is ultimately opposition to God. 'Ye know' indicates certainty: persecution isn't possible, it's guaranteed. This prepares disciples for coming trials, showing that rejection proves they belong to Christ, not the world.

Historical Context

Within decades, Roman persecution would kill most apostles. Jesus' warning prevented disillusionment: persecution wasn't God's failure but His prediction fulfilled. The early church saw martyrdom as identification with Christ.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How should knowing that persecution indicates authentic Christianity change your response to opposition?

2. In what ways does contemporary culture express hatred toward Christ and His followers?

Interlinear Text

Eἰ	ό	κόσμος	ὑμᾶς	μεμίσηκεν	γινώσκετε	ὅτι	έμε
If	G3588	the world	you	hate	ye know	that	me
G1487		G2889	G5209	G3404	G1097	G3754	G1691
πρῶτον	ὑμῶν	μεμίσηκεν					
before	it hated you	hate					
G4412	G5216	G3404					

Additional Cross-References

1 John 3:13 (Parallel theme): Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

John 7:7 (Parallel theme): The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.

Mark 13:13 (Parallel theme): And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

John 3:20 (Parallel theme): For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

Luke 6:22 (Parallel theme): Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.

Matthew 10:22 (Parallel theme): And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

1 John 3:1 (Parallel theme): Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

Matthew 5:11 (Parallel theme): Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

James 4:4 (Parallel theme): Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

Hebrews 12:2 (Parallel theme): Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

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