

# John 16:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.

## Analysis

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**Put you out of the synagogues** (ἀποσυναγάγους ποιήσουσιν, aposynagōgous poiēsousin)—this compound word (apo = from, synagōgē = assembly) describes formal excommunication, the severest form of Jewish discipline. For first-century Jews, this meant complete social, religious, and economic ostracism from the covenant community.

**Think that he doeth God service** (δόξῃ λατρείαν προσφέρειν τῷ θεῷ, doxē latreian prospheirein tō theō)—the word latreia denotes religious worship or sacred service. Jesus exposes the tragic irony: persecutors will murder believers while sincerely convinced they're offering worship to God. Paul exemplified this (Acts 26:9-11) before his Damascus Road conversion, 'breathing out threatenings and slaughter' while zealous for God's honor.

## Historical Context

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The cherem or ban had three degrees in Judaism: niddui (30-day exclusion), cherem (indefinite ban), and shammatha (complete anathema). By AD 85-90, the Birkat ha-Minim (blessing against heretics) was added to synagogue liturgy, formally cursing Christians. Saul of Tarsus exemplifies the 'sacred violence' Jesus predicted—hunting believers while convinced of serving God (Acts 8:3, 9:1-2).

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How can sincere religious zeal become dangerously misdirected when divorced from truth and love?
2. What does it cost you socially or professionally to identify publicly with Christ?
3. How does Jesus's warning help you respond with grace toward those who oppose you for religious reasons?

## Interlinear Text

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ἀποσυναγώγους ποιήσουσιν ὑμᾶς ἀλλ' ἔρχεται ὥρα ἵνα  
out of the synagogues They shall put you yea cometh the time that  
G656 G4160 G5209 G235 G2064 G5610 G2443

πᾶς ὁ ἀποκτείνας ὑμᾶς δόξη λατρείαν  
whosoever G3588 killeth you will think service  
G3956 G615 G5209 G1380 G2999

προσφέρειν τῷ θεῷ  
that he doeth G3588 God  
G4374 G2316

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 9:22** (Parallel theme): These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.

**Matthew 10:28** (Parallel theme): And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

**Revelation 6:9** (References God): And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

**John 12:42** (Parallel theme): Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue:

**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.

**Isaiah 66:5** (Parallel theme): Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed.

**1 Corinthians 4:13** (Parallel theme): Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day.

**Matthew 24:9** (Parallel theme): Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.