

# 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** (ἀποσυναγωγους 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** (δόξην λατρείαν προσφέρειν τῷ θεῷ, doxē latreian prospherein 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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ἀποσυναγωγους	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.