

John 17:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Analysis

I have given them thy word (τὸν λόγον σου, ton logon sou)—Jesus has entrusted the disciples with divine revelation, the logos that was with God from the beginning (John 1:1). This 'word' encompasses both Jesus's teachings and His very person as the incarnate Word.

The world hath hated them (ὁ κόσμος ἐμίσησεν αὐτούς, ho kosmos emisēsen autous)—The kosmos (world-system opposed to God) inevitably hates those who bear God's word. This hatred is not random hostility but a spiritual reaction: light exposes darkness (John 3:19-20). Jesus's **because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world** parallels the disciples' status with His own—sanctified separation, not geographical isolation. The double negation (ouk eisi ek tou kosmou) emphasizes complete ontological difference: believers are aliens in a hostile territory, their citizenship elsewhere (Philippians 3:20).

Historical Context

This comes from Jesus's High Priestly Prayer (John 17), offered on the night before His crucifixion. Spoken in the upper room or en route to Gethsemane, this prayer addresses the Father concerning the disciples' future mission after His departure. The immediate context is the coming persecution they will face from both Jewish religious authorities and the Roman world.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does receiving God's word necessarily place you at odds with the world's values and systems?
2. In what ways do you experience the world's hatred for following Christ, and how should this affect your expectations as a disciple?

Interlinear Text

ἐγὼ δέδωκα αὐτούς τὸν λόγον σου καὶ ὁ κόσμος
I have given them word thy and the world
G1473 G1325 G846 G3588 G3056 G4675 G2532 G3588 G2889

ἐμίσησεν αὐτούς ὅτι οὐκ εἰσὶν ἐκ τοῦ κόσμου
hath hated them because not they are of the world
G3404 G846 G3754 G3756 G1526 G1537 G3588 G2889

καθὼς ἐγὼ οὐκ εἰμὶ ἐκ τοῦ κόσμου
even as I not am of the world
G2531 G1473 G3756 G1510 G1537 G3588 G2889

Additional Cross-References

John 17:16 (Parallel theme): They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

John 8:23 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world.

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.

Proverbs 29:27 (Parallel theme): An unjust man is an abomination to the just: and he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked.

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