

John 3:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

Analysis

'For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.' This explains why people reject Christ despite sufficient evidence. Evil deeds cause hatred of light because light exposes. Coming to Christ means exposure of sin—a prospect evil-doers flee. The verb 'reproved' (elencho) means to bring to light, to expose, to convict. Light is threatening to those with something to hide.

Historical Context

This principle explains resistance to the gospel across all ages. People don't merely disagree with Christianity intellectually; they resist it morally because it exposes their sin. Conviction is uncomfortable; exposure is threatening. Only those willing to have their sin exposed will come to the light.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What areas of life are you tempted to keep from Christ's exposing light?

2. How does understanding moral resistance help in evangelism?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|---------|-------|-------|------------|--------|-------|--------------------|---------|
| πᾶς | γὰρ | ὁ | φαῦλα | πράσσω | μισεῖ | τὸ | φῶς | καὶ |
| every one | For | G3588 | evil | that doeth | hateth | G3588 | the light | neither |
| G3956 | G1063 | | G5337 | G4238 | G3404 | | G5457 | G2532 |
| οὐκ | ἔρχεται | πρὸς | τὸ | φῶς | ἵνα | μὴ | ἐλεγχθῇ | τὰ |
| G3756 | cometh | to | G3588 | the light | G2443 | G3361 | should be reproved | G3588 |
| | G2064 | G4314 | | G5457 | | | G1651 | |
| ἔργα | αὐτοῦ· | | | | | | | |
| deeds | his | | | | | | | |
| G2041 | G846 | | | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

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

Proverbs 4:18 (Light): But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

Proverbs 1:29 (Parallel theme): For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:

Psalms 50:17 (Parallel theme): Seeing thou hatest instruction, and castest my words behind thee.

1 Kings 22:8 (Evil): And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so.