

The Servant is Not Greater than the Master

John 15:18-21; 16:1-5

We live in a world that is hostile to Jesus Christ and to His gospel and in a culture which exalts those things which God hates. We should not be surprised at the presence of horrific persecution in far off lands, nor should we expect to remain unscathed by it here.

A Biblical Encouragement:

1. All people who believe the gospel will have lives which manifest the life of Christ in many ways including in a love of the brethren (Jn. 15:1-17).
2. If, or when, the world hates you on account of your Christian faith and testimony, remember that you are not the first to be hated (Jn. 15:18).
3. Being loved by the world may be comfortable, but it indicates the possibility of a dangerous reality (Jn. 15:19).
4. The way in which the world responded to Jesus is to set our expectations for how the world will respond to the faithful Christian (Jn. 15:20; cf. Acts 6:41; 1 Pt. 3:14).
5. The Persecution of the brethren identifies the persecutors as those who do not know Christ (Jn. 15:21; 16:3).
6. These truths (Jn. 15) are to be an encouragement to the believers in the midst of persecution (Jn. 16:1, 4)
7. Many persecutors will carry out their harassment of Christians believing that they are doing the will of God and are honoring Him (Jn. 16:2).

Select Historical and Current Examples

1. The Martyrs of Bloody Queen Mary (1553-1558)
2. The Imprisonment of John Bunyan (1660-1672)
3. Early Rain Church (2019)
4. Masterpiece Cake Shop (2019)
5. California Assembly Resolution (2019)