

Series: Psalms

Title: Hated by the World, Why?

Text: John 15: 18-25

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John 15: 18: If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before *it hated* you.

The Lord declares that his people shall be hated by the world—particularly the religious world. Notice, the words “their law” in verse 25.

John 15: 25: But *this cometh to pass*, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.

He speaks particularly of the scribes and Pharisees—the religious world. The irreligious world will hate us, without a doubt. But there is no greater hatred toward God’s people than from the religious world who hates the true and living Redeemer, especially those who preach another Jesus, that is not another. Religion without Christ is hard, stoic and stern, unmerciful and unforgiving.

Matthew 21: 31:…Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.

This hatred is one reason the Lord spent this last night declaring to his people what he shall do for us and commanding us to believe him and love one another.

Proposition: The very things Christ declared he has and shall do to save and keep his people is the power that those with a mere form of godliness deny and for which they hate Christ and his people.

Christ began by washing his disciples feet. He said that those he has washed in his blood are clean every whit. But your feet will become defiled and you will need your brethren to wash your feet; so wash one another’s feet. Then commanded us what he showed us (13: 34) “*a new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, that ye also love one another.*” The religious world who hates Christ. Without the Spirit of God they only understand that in the letter. So the world’s religion examines *others* how *they* are loving. But when Christ abides in us we worship in newness of spirit and we are taught to examine *ourselves*. Am I loving *my* brethren as Christ loved *me*? Am I washing *my* brother’s feet when they offend me, as Christ washes *mine* when I offend him?

Then the Lord showed us how we are to do so: he told Peter that Peter would deny him—that happened in direct connection with the world hating Christ. Peter denied the Lord because he feared the hatred of men who hated Christ. The hatred of the world sometimes results in a believer denying Christ. The religious world without Christ uses only the letter of the word. Christ said that if any man deny me before men, him will I deny before my Father (Mt 10:33). The religious world would have said, “Peter that is it for you; you denied him. You are devil; we are casting you out.” But the Lord shows us what worshipping God in newness of spirit is. He shows us what love is. He shows us how to wash one another’s feet. The Lord loved Peter so he immediately preached the gospel to Peter saying, “*Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me...I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself [I will restore you Peter to myself]: that where I am there you may be also*” (Jn 14: 1-4). So after his resurrection, Christ came and restored Peter.

Thomas and Philip were in unbelief. They said, “We don’t know where you are going, how can we know the way?” Philipp said, “Show us the Father and it will suffice; we will believe you” (Jn 14: 4-9). The God-hating world uses the letter which says, “If any man believes not on Christ, he is none of his” (Rom 8: 9). But Christ loved them in newness of spirit so he washed their feet by declaring the gospel to them, “*I am the way, the truth and the life—he that hath seen me hath seen the Father—ye believe in God, believe also in me.*”

Then the Lord declared his power by which he makes his people continue worshipping him in newness of spirit—he said, “*The same as it is the Father doing the works in me, so I am going to the Father and shall send the Spirit—and I and my Father shall come and work in you and therefore you shall do the same*

works—you shall continue in faith and love” (Jn 14: 9-20). The Spirit shall “bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: NOT AS THE WORLD GIVETH, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid (Jn 14: 26-27). God’s child has experienced this power of God so he loves in newness of spirit: speaking the gospel of Christ, praying to Christ for brethren, trusting his brethren to Christ to work in his people. The world has not experienced Christ’s power so they deny the power of our Lord, not preaching Christ, using only the letter, constraining men or casting them out.

The Lord put all this together when he declared, “*I am the Vine, and my Father is the Husbandman*” and ye are the branches” (Jn 15: 1-5). Christ is the good tree that brings forth good fruit in his children and produces first fruits, calling out his people through the gospel. He assures us it is so because he said, “*WITHOUT ME YE CAN DO NOTHING.*” But the world who hates Christ and his disciples are described when Paul said, “*If a man think himself something WHEN HE IS NOTHING, he deceiveth himself. They take the offense out of the cross, only lest they suffer persecution for the cross of Christ; instead, they constrain you to do, that they may glory in your flesh but they themselves are not obeying Christ*” (Gal 5: 3, 12-14).

They are judges of Christ’s law of faith and love but being a judge is not being a doer (Ja 4: 11-12). They judge Christ’s law of faith and love to be a bad law. They judge it a bad law to believe Christ and love brethren by speaking the gospel alone and trusting Christ to work in his people. Instead, they make themselves the judges in Christ’s place, speaking evil of sinners Christ has made righteous in him. They attempt to coerce obedience when Christ is the one Lawgiver who is able to save and to destroy. “Who are thou that judgest another?” Paul said that when we judge our brethren we condemn ourselves because we are guilty of the exact same sins as they in ourselves—that is true of every one of us. But the Lord makes his people, not despise the Lord’s longsuffering and goodness to us, but to love him and our brethren by being longsuffering and teaching them to go to Christ (Rom 2: 1-4). It is because Christ has made his true disciples know in spirit, “Without me ye can do nothing.”

But Christ assures his people we shall continue abiding in Christ and bearing fruit because it is of Christ alone. “*Ye have not chosen me but I have chosen you and ordained you that you should go forth and bring forth fruit and your fruit shall remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you*” (Jn 15: 16). By his electing, predestinating grace and power he will keep his people repenting and believing him. He will keep us coming to his throne of grace in time of need, asking the Father in his name, and Christ will continue giving us more grace. Only sinners need grace. But only sinners are saved by our gracious Lord. He keeps his people coming to Christ alone for more grace.

So our Lord again. This is what he has taught in all these commands. He says, “*This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you; greater love hath no man than that he lay down his life for his friends*” (Jn 15: 12-13). Christ laid down his life for his people, his friends—bearing our shameful sin and curse and made us the righteousness of God in him. God says, “*Who shall lay anything to the charge of mine elect, it is God that justifieth*” (Rom 8: 33). Christ makes his children know this in spirit. So he says that you are my friends because I have made known the gospel of my Father to you. Now, you, my friend, love your brethren who are my friends. Love your brethren as I have loved you—even as I have loved you this very night—while you have been in unbelief and sin and been an offense to your Lord. I have loved you and washed your feet and continued to declare the gospel to you that you might continue in me in faith and love. He said that all these commands I have spoken to you, so that you love one another. (Jn 15: 17).

Then Christ declares that brethren need to love one another because not only will we offend one another but we shall be hated by the world.

John 15: 18: If world hate you, ye know that it hated me before *it hated* you. 19: If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

HATED FOR ELECTING, PREDESTINATING GRACE

God’s electing, predestinating grace is the very reason the world hates you, “*I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.*”

The world did not hate Christ for doing good works. The world will not hate you for doing them good. They hated Christ when he said, *“I know my sheep—and you are not my sheep, I and my Father are one; we save and keep the sheep”* (Jn 10: 24-31).

John 10:33 [they picked up stones; he asked for what good work they stoned him] The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.

The world hates that God is God. Carnal man hates that the triune God is manifest in the Man Christ Jesus. Christ is the sovereign God of heaven and earth, the Savior of his people. The world hates that God chose whom he would and passed by whom he would. The world hates the successful Redeemer who laid down his life for the sheep and accomplished the redemption of his people, without the help of man. The world hates us because we declare it is the Spirit that makes us born-again and keeps us abiding in Christ and loving one another as he loves us. They hate us because we declare, without Christ we can do nothing, we are what we are only by the grace of God.

Little lordly man is offended that God does not consult his will first. He is offended that not only is Christ the Author of our faith but the Finisher. This always ends up being the case with the world. The Pharisee’s rejected Christ and chose the works of Moses, that is, their own works. The world always rejects the gospel in favor of their will and their works.

But Christ makes his child know that it is this same sovereign, electing, predestinating, redeeming love for which the world hates us, that is our security. He said, *“The world hates you because I have chosen you out of the world.”* But Christ said that is our security, *“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain”* (Jn 15: 16).

Our security is that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit who everlastingly loves us. Our security is God’s sovereign purpose and irrevocable decrees and covenant promise. Our security is from the eternal election and unconditional predestination of his children to life and glory by Christ Jesus. Our security is the righteousness of Christ in whom we are justified.

HATED BECAUSE CHRIST WAS HATED

John 15: 20: Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

We will be hated of men because Christ suffered the same. If we will be witnesses of the man of sorrows acquainted with grief then our Lord will see to it that we are men of sorrows acquainted with grief. It is one of the ways we are made to value, the sufferings that our Lord bore on our behalf.

Every man of the world that the sinless GodMan encountered hated him and persecuted him. If not outwardly, in their hearts, and he knew all men’s hearts. They came with rocks in their hands to stone the woman they caught in adultery. After Christ preached the gospel to them, they wanted to stone him. Christ said they will do the same to you. Cain hated Abel because Abel trusted Christ alone and God accepted him in the blood of the Lamb. So Cain killed his brother.

But he says, *“If they have kept my word they will keep yours also.”* Christ said, *“My sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow me. And if they have kept my word they will keep yours also.”*

1 John 4: 4: Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. 5: They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. 6: We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

God’s children cannot endure a false message that gives sinners room to glory and robs God of his glory. We cannot hear the message that makes our God and Savior’s blood common and ineffectual by saying he

died for all men—“in some sense”—no. We cannot hear the message that turns sinners from Christ to their own works. Christ is the gospel and we follow him—and we do so by him working in us.

HATED BECAUSE THE WORLD HATES THE FATHER

John 15: 21: But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me...23: He that hateth me hateth my Father also.

Really think of the irony of this statement: they hate God the Father who is love—who manifest his love by sending his only begotten Son to die for God-hating sinners who he chose. He loved his people because he would and chose to save his people in and by his Son, Christ Jesus, because he loved us. Yet men hate God for this.

God the Father manifested his great love for his people by sending his only begotten Son to be the one by whose obedience we are made righteous and accepted of God forever. Yet the world hates God the Father for this and they hate Christ.

HATED BECAUSE CHRIST STRIPS AWAY THEIR DISGUISE

John 15: 22: If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin...24: If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.

The disguise of self-made religion is their very best religious good works. But Christ worked the works *none other man did*—it is by his obedience alone that he makes his people righteous. The world hates Christ because Christ strips away the disguise of man-made false religion and declares all their very best works to be sin.

Of course his miracles were works none other man did. But it was not healing the lame and feeding the multitudes for which men hate him. It is because Christ alone fulfilled the law and the prophets. Christ alone gave the law complete obedience unto death, justifying his people from our sins—which none other man did. Christ laying down his life for God and his people on the cross is the love, the righteousness, which the law demands—none other man did it. Christ is the righteousness that exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and the Pharisees—which he said we must have—that is the message of the sermon on the mount. “*Greater love hath **no man** than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends*” (Jn 15: 13). He did the works none other man did. But men will not renounce their works and believe on Christ alone to save.

Men do not hate us when we preach good works—the world's religion only preaches good works. They hate us when we declare all our good works are filthy rags in themselves. God's people are made righteous only by Christ's works. And his righteousness is given us apart from our works through God given faith.

The self-righteous, self-sanctifying religious world hears that declare exactly what it declares, that all our righteousness's, all our very best attempts at honoring God's law, all our very best good works, are filthy rags. Christ alone is the righteousness that exceeds the scribes and the Pharisees—all boasting is excluded by the law of faith. And we cannot even boast of our faith and love. He gives it and grows it and sustains it in us.

God the Father's love is in Christ alone and Christ is the power of God that men with a form of religion deny. That very night, all these things Christ promises to work in his people to keep us abiding in him is the very power the God-hating religious world denies.

Man-made religion boasts they taught themselves. They boast they made themselves be born-again. They boast that they, at least partly by their works, made themselves righteous and holy. They believe Christ died for all and it is up to man to make his blood effectual for them personally. It is the worship of the will. Those that believe one or two of these things believe them all. And so man-made religion denies Christ's Authority as the One Lawgiver who is able to save and destroy. They take the offense out of the gospel. They constrain obedience by the letter of the word rather than preaching Christ. It is a vain religion of

dividing and casting out those who do not measure up to their superior selves. **THAT THEY MAY GLORY IN WHAT THEY CONSTRAINED YOU TO DO.**

How hateful is the world against Christ. Self-made religion united with the irreligious to nail Christ to the tree in the name of glorifying God and keeping the law of Moses. They rejected Christ for Moses and “their” law—seeking righteousness by their own works. So man-made religion is cruel and hateful and unforgiving. And when they hear us preach the gospel that gives God all the glory and man none, they are filled with wrath. It is the way of fallen man. Hatred from the world shall be the lot of all who declare, “No flesh shall glory in his presence. But of God are ye in Christ, who of God is made unto us Wisdom, and Righteousness, and Sanctification and Redemption. So he that glories let him glory in the Lord alone” (1 Cor 1: 29-31).

HATRED BECAUSE IT FULFILLS THEIR LAW

John 15: 25: But *this cometh to pass*, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.

It was the fulfillment of God’s word—they hated Christ without a cause. It is the fulfillment of the Christ’s word when they hate us.

God’s children do not want to give the world a cause to hate us. But there was no cause to hate Christ. He is sinless. Yet the world called him a wine-bibber, a gluttonous man, even a devil. And you can mark it down, they will say the cause is in you.

But believer here is our comfort—to the opposite extreme that the world hated Christ without cause, that is, freely; so God the Father and his Son loved his people without a cause in us.

There was no cause to hate Christ, he is the only sinless man to walk this earth—likewise, there was no cause in us for God to love us: in our flesh, the imagination of the thoughts of our hearts was only evil continually; yet he loved us without a cause.

There was no cause to hate Christ and nail him to the tree—and there was no cause in us for Christ to love us and permit sinners to nail him to the cross—that he might justify us and make us complete in him.

There was no cause in Christ for men to reject his gospel—and there is no cause in us for Christ to send us that same gospel and birth us again and keep us all our days.

To the same degree that they hated Christ without a cause, God loved his people without a cause and justified us freely through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus!

When you are hated, remember these things. So trust Christ and love one another. Do not cease washing one another’s feet by declaring the gospel of Christ, that Christ alone is the salvation of his people. The power unto salvation is Christ. He shall keep each of his redeemed and shall call out his people through his gospel.

An old believer had a dog that would bark and bark at the full moon. In time, the dog died. But the moon still shines. Christ’s church is the moon who gets our light from the Sun of Righteousness. When all the dogs die and cease barking, Christ’s church will go on shining in the Light of Christ.

Amen!