



## *Repentance Tabernacle Church*

RepentanceTabernacle@gmail.com  
www.RepentanceTabernacle.org (984) 369-5171

### **Warning to the House Whole of Faith!**

**Scripture:** John 15:18-25

The same words which David used respecting his enemies (Psalm 35:19) would express, also, the conduct of the Jews and their treatment of the Messiah. In both cases it was without cause. Jesus had broken no law; He had done no injury to His country or to any individual. It is still true that sinners hate Him in the same way. He injures no one, but, amid all their hatred, He seeks their welfare; and, while they reject Him in a manner for which they "can give no reason in the day of judgment," He still follows them with mercies and entreats them to return to Him.

Moreover, the world hated Jesus Christ because He testified that their works were evil. The world will also hate us because we are not of the world, because Christ has called us out of the world to serve Him in spirit and in truth. Jesus even tells the Father in His intercessory prayer regarding the world's hatred towards them (John 17:14-16). The *world* refers to the organized system under Satan's domain that is opposed to God and His rightful King, Jesus Christ. In 1 John 5:19 NAS. The apostle draws the contrast: "*We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.*"

Jesus knew that after He left the disciples to return to heaven, they would face some difficult opposition from the world. Maybe, because He had just told them that they would do even "greater works" than He did (John 14:12), they were envisioning receptive crowds and smooth sailing ahead. But the reality was, they would face some severe persecution, not just from the pagan world, but also from the religious crowd. The Lord wanted them to know what to expect from the world and how to respond to the hostility that they would experience. Jesus predicted it (John 15:18-21), the world hates reproof, their evil is exposed by Christian living, and our light, they are blind to the truth of God's word, Jesus Christ called us out of the world, and they are a natural enmity against God.

Since Jesus came to reveal their sin, but they refused to see He said therefore, they have no cloak for their sin. And the religious leaders asked, "*Are we blind also? Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth*" (John 9:40-41). If I had not come and proved to them beyond doubt that I was the Messiah they would not have had the sin of rejecting Me, but now they have no excuse for this sin. They willfully hate both Me and My Father. John 3:19-20 states, "*This is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproof.*"

In Matthew 12:30, Jesus draws a similar line: "*He that is not with me is against me.*" He paints the contrast in black and white to draw a distinct line to show that you must take sides. There is no gray zone. Either you love Jesus and His Father and all who follow Jesus, or you hate them all, whether you admit it or not! Either you are on board or you are not, but you cannot straddle both! So, if they persecuted Him, therefore, we are not exempt from being persecuted. That is the reason Paul tells us, "*Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil*" (Ephesians 6:10-11).

When Jesus gave the Sermon on the Mount (Beatitudes), "*Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake*" (Matthew 5:11). Jesus said to rejoice when we are persecuted. Persecution can be good because (1) it takes our eyes off earthly rewards, (2) it strips away superficial belief, (3) it strengthens the faith of those who endure, and (4) our attitude through it serves as an example to others who follow. God will reward the faithful by allowing us to enter His eternal Kingdom, where there is no more persecution. Peter also wrote to the Jewish Christians who were experiencing persecution for their faith. "*If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified*" (1 Peter 4:14). We also must take careful thought or wise counsel to determine the real cause of our persecution. However, we can be assured that whenever we are persecuted because of our loyalty to Christ, He will be with us all the way.

**My question to you today:** Who has ever had any reason to hate the Lord Jesus? What injury has He ever done to any one of the human races? What evil has He ever said or thought of any one of them? What cause or reason had the Jews for putting Him to death? What reason has the sinner for hating Him now? What reason for neglecting Him? No one can give a reason for it that will satisfy his own conscience, none that has the least show of plausibility.