

## **John 15:18-16:6**

### *9 Words of Wisdom Amidst Escalating Christian Persecution* (pt. 4)

INTRO: Why does Jesus tell his disciples certain things will happen before they happen?

#### **Pastoral (Biblical) Words of Wisdom**

As American Christians:

1) **We should \_\_\_\_\_ daily for the religious liberties we uniquely enjoy!**

(Job 1:21; Eccl. 7:14; 1 Thess. 5:18)

2) **We Should \_\_\_\_\_ of this Remarkable Providential Anomaly.**

(John 15:18f; 1 Peter 4:12; Acts 17:25-27; Col. 4:3-4)

3) **We should pray for the best, but prepare for the \_\_\_\_\_.**

(in the spirit of Daniel 3:17-18 in view of John 15:18; Acts 14:21-23, etc).

4) **We should realize though we are in the minority (as Christians) we are not \_\_\_\_\_.**

(1 Kings 19:18; Romans 11; zero in on what the Scriptures teach concerning, "God's remnant.")

5) **We should prayerfully stand up and fight back against the evil schemes of Satan and His Kingdom of Darkness.**

(2 Cor. 10:3-5; Eph. 6:12-17; Jude 3f; 1 Cor. 16:13)

6) We should remember that our \_\_\_\_\_ and spiritual enemies are at the same time the mission field.

(Acts 9:1-31; Acts 16:25-40; Philippians 4:22; 1 Tim. 2:1-2 & Matt. 5:38-48)

7) We should also remember that many of our common grace \_\_\_\_\_ allies are at the same time the mission field.

(John 3:5-8; Philippians 3:3-11))

8) We should never lose sight of the fact that a \_\_\_\_\_ world of lies needs a loving, truth-telling church.

(John 8:32; 13:34-35; 14:6; 1 Tim. 3:15)

9) We should regularly \_\_\_\_\_ rich songs that reinforce related biblical truths.

(Acts 16:25; Col. 3:16; note all of the Psalm; etc)

**For Further Reflection/Application:** *Lord help us to be effectually doers of the Word!*

Memorize 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:12; John 15:18. Take note of Acts 14:21-23.

How do false teachers reconcile a health, wealth prosperity (false gospel) with the true Gospel and passages like this?

Read aloud the 9 pastoral/biblical words of wisdom amidst escalating Christian persecution.

From today's sermon, which of Pastor's (biblical) words of wisdom did you find to be the most Encouraging? Convicting/Challenging? Eye-Opening? Controversial? Explain how/why.

### Current Sermon Series Outline

I) A Biblical Theology of Hatred and Persecution (*see sermons from 12/11/22 and 12/18/22*)

II) A Historical Overview of Hatred and Persecution against God's People (*see 1/1/23 sermon*)

A) A Macro Historical Overview of *Old Testament Persecution* against God's People.

(*Hebrews 11*; Genesis -Malachi)

B) A Micro Historical Overview of *New Testament Persecution* against God's People.

(*Acts 2-8, 1 Peter; Hebrews 12:1-3; Revelation 2-3*)

C) *Contemporary Historical Examples* of persecution against God's people.

(note progression of persecution in Acts 2-8; *Foxes Book of Martyrs*, [www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com), etc )

III) Jesus' Prophetic Words Concerning Hatred and Christian Persecution (*future sermon*)

Like a master artist, Jesus powerfully contrasts essential teaching concerning Love and Friendship with important teaching on Hatred and Persecution! Jesus calls His disciples to treat one another as family (note John 15:12-17; 13:34-35). In view of John 15:18-16:6, why is it essential that God's people to love one another in a Christ-like manner? How can you show the love of Christ to a believer that has been (or is being mistreated) because of his/her Christian faith?

What are some examples of O.T. saints who were "persecuted for righteousness sake" and/or "hated without cause?" Recall the end of Hebrews 11 and the first few verses of chapter 12.

What are some contemporary examples of Christians who suffered because of their biblical values/witness? How have you been mocked/ridiculed/marginalized/attacked because of your Christian faith/values/etc.? When are you tempted to compromise the biblical message or just go with the flow in order to "safe face" and/or lessen the chance of being persecuted?

Why shouldn't we be shocked when unrepentant unbelievers target us? (note John 15:18-16:6; 1 Peter 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:12; John 3:19-21)? Why do they hate us? Review your notes from previous sermons, pt. 1 and pt. 2. (a Biblical Theology of Sinful Hatred and Christian Persecution).

Related Songs: *Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken. How Firm a Foundation. A Mighty Fortress is our God. Sovereign Grace Music- How Long, O Lord. Come For Us. How Long, O Lord, How Long (Psalm 13). When We See Your Face. Gettys- He Will Hold Me Fast.*

## REVIEW OF JOHN 15:12-17 SERMON SERIES

### Jesus' sermon on Love and Friendship in verses 12-17 highlights 3 Great Truths

1) The Savior's *sacrificial* love is the model for His friend's *mutual* love.

(*John 15:12-14*; Rom. 5:6-8; Col. 3:12-14; Eph. 4:32)

2) Jesus' Friends are Granted VIP access (insider information) concerning the Master's Affairs.

(*John 15:15*; 16:12; Matt. 11:25-27)

3) The Sovereign King Handpicks His Friends and Calls Each of Us to Love & Good Deeds.

(*John 15:16*; 6:63-70a; Eph. 1-2)

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