

**John 15:18-25**  
*Why the World Hates Us*

INTRO: Jesus not only forewarns His disciples about forthcoming persecution, He also explains why the world hates the people of God. "Hated without cause."

*(John 15:18-25; Acts 14:21-23; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:12)*

*WHY the big, bad world hates disciples of Christ:*

Because **1) They hate our** \_\_\_\_\_.

*(John 15:20, 23; Matthew 10:21-22; John 7:7)*

Because **2) They hate our** \_\_\_\_\_.

*(John 15:19; Deut. 7:6-11; John 6:66)*

WHY the lost world hates Jesus' disciples:

Because **3) They are Spiritually** \_\_\_\_\_.

*(John 15:20-21; John 3:18; John 17:3; Romans 1:18-3:23)*

Because **4) They're Unwittingly Fulfilling God's** \_\_\_\_\_.

*(John 15:22-25; Psalm 69:4; Genesis 50:20; John 13:13-18; Acts 2:22-29)*

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

What are some ways you've been "hated without cause" because of your union with Christ?

Highlight some contemporary examples where Christians have suffered for the faith (near and far)? (note Open Doors Ministries; Voice of the Martyrs; etc).

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

"The Christian who does not anticipate opposition does not yet understand the nature of the Christian life"  
Dr. Sinclair Ferguson

Open Doors figures that 360 million Christians live in countries where persecution is "significant." Review the 9 words of wisdom amidst escalating Christian persecution from last Sunday's sermon notes.

Only two churches (of seven) in Asia Minor (per Rev. 2-3) were spiritually healthy/vibrant. Both were both persecuted (hated without cause). Persecution often has a purifying/sanctifying effect (Rom. 5). How does God use trials and tribulations to make us more Christ-like?

Now that we understand *the WHY of Christian persecution*, how should this impact our Christian lives?

If we do what is wrong or sinful, we shouldn't call it Christian persecution. See 1 Peter 3:8-18.

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.*

### Sermon Series Outline

Last Sunday's sermon- *9 Words of Wisdom Amidst Escalating Christian Persecution* was the applicational addendum to our current sermon series (see below).

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 in Acts 2-8; [www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com); Open Doors Ministries; etc )

III) **Jesus' Prophetic Words Concerning Hatred and Christian Persecution** (*1/15/23 & forthcoming msgs*)

(*John 15:18-16:4*)

“The truth lies in the biblical doctrine of providence. That doctrine is summed up in the following answer of the Shorter Catechism: *God's works of providence are, his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing of all his creatures, and their action.* The theologians and students of Scriptures speaking of those forces truly operating in the world as "secondary causes". God is the first cause, but the forces of nature and free actions of personal beings whom God has created are second causes; and it is extremely important, if we would be true to the bible, that the existence of secondary causes should not be denied.

Only, it is important to observe that the two causes are not on the same plane. They are not coordinate, but one is completely subordinate to another. In every event in the natural world God has completely accomplished what he willed to accomplish. He is not limited in any way by the forces of nature or by the free actions of his creatures. They act truly; but they truly act only as he has determined they shall act. The correct way, therefore, expressing the relation between secondary causes and God, the great First Cause, is to say that God makes use of second causes to accomplish what is accordance with his eternal purpose. Second causes are not independent forces whose cooperation He needs, but they are means that He employs exactly as He will.”

Dr. Ryken provides further explanation for us. “This does not mean that God forces people to do things against their will, or that everything in the universe is moved by some immediate exercise of his divine power. Instead, God typically works out his purposes through human decisions, natural laws, and the many causes and reactions that are constantly at play in ordinary life--what the Westminster Confession of Faith refers to as "second causes."

A *second cause* is simply ‘a cause caused by something else.’ This expression is used in theology to distinguish between God as the ultimate cause of everything that comes to pass and the myriad smaller causes we see at work in the world. Some of these second causes are as necessary as the laws of physics. Others are as free as the decision to order a cheeseburger. But whether things happen by necessity or contingency, they all occur under the overarching providence of God. Even chance and probability are the servants of his will (Acts 1:21-26).

The third section of the WCF opens up space for divine miracles. God typically works through the ordinary means of providence, such as the harvest time that comes in autumn, or the daily care that a mother gives her baby. Yet even the laws of nature do not constrain the power of God, who has the freedom to turn water into wine, give sight to the blind, and bring the dead back to life.”

*Related Passages: 1 Samuel 2:6-7; Psalm 37: 23-24; 65:9-11; 115:3; 135:6-7; Lamentations 3:37; Isaiah 14:24-27; 55:11; Acts 17:26; Romans 8:28f; Romans 9:19-24; Ephesians 1:3-14; James 4:13-16.*

See also *Exodus 4:4, 8, 21, 7:3, 13, 9:12, 10:1, 20, 27, Deut. 2:30, Josh. 11:18–20, 1 Sam. 2:25, 16:14, 1 Kings 22:20–23, 2 Chron. 25:20, Ps. 105:24, Isa. 6:9–10, 10:6, 63:17, Rom. 9:17–18, 11:7–8, 2 Cor. 2:15–16.*

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