

WHY THE WORLD HATES AND PERSECUTES THOSE WHO FOLLOW JESUS

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Jesus said, “The world hates Me because I testify of it, that its works are evil,” *Jn 7:7*.

Jesus said, “And this is the judgment, that Light has come into the world and men love darkness more than light, because their deeds are evil. **Everyone that does evil hates the Light**, and will not come to the light, in case their deeds should be reprov’d,” *Jn 3:19,20*.

Jesus said, “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you,” *Jn 15:18*. “If you were of the world, the world would love you: but because you are not of the world, **but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hates you**,” *Jn 15:19*.

“If I had not come and spoken unto them, they would not be aware of their sin: but now they have nothing to cover over their sin,” *Jn 15:22*.

“If I had not done among them the work which no-one else has done, (that is the teaching, preaching and the miracles – EKB), they would not be aware of their sin, but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father,” *Jn 15:24*.

Jesus said, “These things I have spoken unto you that you should not be offended or stumble,” *Jn 16:1*. “They will put you out of the synagogues: yes, the time is coming, when he who kills you will think he is serving God,” *Jn 16:2*. “They will do these things to you because they have not known the Father, nor Me,” *Jn 16:3*.

“I have told you these things, that when they happen, you may remember that I told you,” *Jn 16:4*.

Jesus said, “When He is come, (that is the Holy Spirit), **He will reprove the world of sin**, and of righteousness, and of judgment.” *Jn 16:8*, also to verse 11.

Jesus said, “These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me you might have peace. In the world you shall have trouble, but be of good cheer; **I have overcome the world**,” *Jn 16:33*

The Lord sends forth His commandment on the earth, His Word runs very swiftly, *Ps 147:15*.

But now **God commands all men and women, everywhere to repent**, because He has appointed a day, in which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained, having given assurance unto all people of this fact, by raising Him from the dead, (that is Jesus Christ), *Ac 17:30,31*.

Jesus came preaching that all people, everywhere, need to repent of sin and turn to God, to obey Him, *Mat 4:17, Mk 1:15, Lk 13:3,5*.

As we preach the necessity of acknowledgement of sin, confession of sin, repentance from sin, some people become very offended and upset. Their response is one of hatred of the message and hatred of the messenger.

Through Peter’s preaching on the Day of Pentecost, *Ac 2:14-36*, **many were deeply convicted of their sin** of rejecting Jesus and demanding that He be crucified, *Ac 2:36,37*. Peter told them to repent and be baptised in the Name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sins and that they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, *Ac 2:38*. Three thousand humbled themselves in repentance, believed in Jesus Christ and were baptised, *Ac 2:41,42*.

However others rose up in wrath and hatred towards the message and the messengers, refusing to repent and believe, *Ac 4:1-21, 5:17-33*.

As the apostles preached of the necessity of repentance **many became furious and made plans to kill them**, *Ac 5:33*.

At this time many believers are becoming bold witnesses to Jesus Christ. They are presenting the need of repentance from sin and faith in Jesus Christ. **We are moving into revival times**. There will be reaction from the world and many will be offended, as they are challenged to confess their sins and follow Christ.

As we experience and hatred and opposition, it is important that we **remember the words of Jesus** and of God’s Word to:

- a. **Forgive** those who hate and oppose us, *Mk 11:25,26*.
- b. **Release them from our judgment** and hatred, *Mat 7:1,2, Rom 2:1,2*.
- c. **Hand the problem over to God** to resolve, *1Pet 5:7, Mat 11:28-30, Ps 55:22*.
- d. **Pray blessing** on those who hate us, *Lk 6:27,28*.