

only way we can truly know God is in Christ, and unless we know him through Christ we cannot know him at all.

So John said, to go a little deeper is simply to say that the (world is ignorant.) This hostility is enmity against Christ and his disciples because they do not know him. They know not God. If men but had an acquaintance with him, but they have no knowledge of him. They know not God who sent Jesus Christ into the world and so the deeper meaning comes out. We know God as we know Christ and so the world turned away from Christ. Therefore, they turned away from God. Thus they will hate his followers, for if they hated Christ, certainly they will hate those who follow him. So he (interprets their ignorance produces hostility.) And really the worst thing that the world can do is to hate Jesus because he is the interpretation of God for man. Therefore, not to love him is to be ignorant of him.

II. The World's Hostility Interpreted As Sin, vs. 22

The words of Jesus merited their love. There was an advantage which they had enjoyed in the Gospel. Christ had come to speak to them and he speaks to every man and every generation. There might have been a partial excuse

THE WORLD'S HOSTILITY INTERPRETED

John 15:21 - 25

In the preceding verses, 14 - 20 we discovered that (friendship) with Jesus created hostility. That the world would be hostile toward his followers and he traces this hostility to himself. In this passage of Scripture he attempts to give us a still better interpretation as to why this hostility should even be at all.

I. The World's Hostility Interpreted as Ignorance

Vs 21

He has told them where this hatred was found in the world. The children of this world are distinguished from the children of God. This was the (disposition) of the people of the world. Psalms 17, 13, and 14. They were wholly devoted to this world and the things of it and never considered the next world. The world in Christ's language is the total which makes up God-less men. There is no hesitation on his part to point out that there was a great host and he seems to say, there is no neutral ground, they are either black or white, good or bad.

He seems to make an illustration, as (a magnet) will

draw a heap of metal filings brought into contact. They will turn into two groups. There will be those who are attracted and those who are not.

So it is (just as simple) one is my disciple, the other is the world's. The world stands apart from him and has no real love. The world levels its hatred against Christ and his disciples in verse 19. (I. Cor. 12:7.) Jesus had appointed them their work, but he tells them what hardships they should meet. There will be enmity because the world hates the name of Jesus Christ. This name represents the character and the work and his claim as the Son of God. (Acts 4:17.)

This is (not a new doctrine) of Jesus. He has suggested the same thing in his sermon on the mount. "Blessed are ye when men shall revile you and persecute you and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake."

This enmity or hatred we know existed between the seed of the (woman and the serpent). Why did (Cain) hate Abel. Was it not because his works were righteous. (Esau) hated Jacob because of the blessing. (Joseph's) brethren hated him because

his father loved him. (Saul) hated David because the Lord was with him. (Ahab) hated the prophet because of his prophecies. Such causes as these are the causes of the world's hatred. They will persecute you because they hate you. Verse 20. And as we pointed out already, they will hate you because you do not belong to the world. The (Egyptians) hated the Israelites. They hated them because they prospered under the hand of God.

Jesus says here, they hate you (because you belong to me) For my name's sake. This is ground for the hatred because you bear my name in the world. They stand up for his name. They have been baptized in his name. They will live and die by it. And this has been the lot of Christ's followers who have been willing to suffer reproach for his name.

(I Peter 4:14.)

Jesus says the cause of this is that he is an exact (copy of God). That any man who knows him can know the Father. Of course, the world has its concept of God, but outside of Jesus Christ and his manifestation the world's idea is incomplete, because you must know him to know the forgiving God and the living God. He may be hoped for, but we must have knowledge of him for he lights up the darkness. The

What do you think? The thought that men go through their days and weeks and years and have not God in their thoughts. Does it not indicate a central feeling of their hearts toward God. They may not be outwardly, aggressively against God, but for a twelve-months period they go without thinking about God or caring to please him, or with any desire to follow him. Where there is no love, Jesus says, there is hatred. If a man does not love God as he is revealed in Jesus Christ, he does not care to please him or to think about him or to order life in obedience to his command. When we put the man of the world under the searchlight and ask him, does he try to please God. Is he trying to serve him. Is it a joy to be near him. Is God a delight in his thoughts. Do I turn to him as my refuge, then we discover that the man cannot be neutral in his relation to God and that a man cannot serve God and mammon.

IV. The World's Hostility Interpreted By His Works

verse 24.

By another measure Jesus points out that his works have been assigned which ought to have convinced them of God by his teachings. He had told them of his Messiahship. By his works he had shown them that he merited their love and

he says, for those who had not enjoyed the Gospel. For they never would have heard him. But here his divine nature which has been manifest. They have received some of the most brilliant revelations of God through miracles and through his (words), for Jesus had been almost like a child's picture book. He had illustrated by miracles and witnessed by his words. And Jesus said that his words made the (difference between ignorance and truth), and to not listen to him surely was the sin of sins, to see God manifested and not accept the manifestation. His deeds were plain that he was of God. And he points out that if I had not spoken they had not had sins. That does not mean, of course, that these men would have been clear of all moral responsibility, but it means that the voice of their conscience would not have been as strong. We know that (black) shows up when it is spattered on something that is perfectly white. And so Jesus speaks (truth) and lights up the worlds of these men. And as the light grows, the responsibility grows. And so their dark nature has been revealed and the heavier burden has been placed upon their soul. So the measure of light then becomes the measure of guilt. So there is no (shadow) from the intense sunlight of the tropics.

The coming here is referred to as the coming of heaven by way of the incarnation. Christ speaks to men in clearness and he has affirmed that the sin of the world is without excuse because of his teachings and miracles. All of the previous revelations were dim as compared to the brightness of his revelation. And so guilt is preparation to the means of knowledge.

To have sinned means to be a sinner. In other words, it is to have sinned and hence be guilty of sin. The sin of the world, he said, is nothing to be compared with what it is now.

There is (no shadow or cloak) or excuse as knowledge is placed within their reach and they have refused to welcome it. Thus their sin is without excuse. "To him who knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin". Occasionally, there may be ignorance concerning certain facts. I. Tim. 1:13. This ignorance may be due to a lack of knowledge that is unavailable. But Jesus points out here that knowledge has been made available and that they are all inexcusable, and in the Judgement Day they will be speechless and will not have a word to say for themselves.

III. The World's Hostility Interpreted As Hatred,

[Vs. 23]

He very clearly interpreted here that those who hate him hate the Father. Jesus is the (image) of God, the clearest possible revelation of the Father. He is the sole awakening, sole illuminating power of this earth with his words and light. So this goes deeper when men willfully close their eyes. This is the very sin of sins. This is the blindness of unbelief in him.

Jesus has made his identification with the Father and he says the feelings of men toward him indicate the feelings of men toward God. For he has said, "He that has seen me has seen the Father." "He that has loved me has loved the Father." And now he says that, "He who hateth me hateth the Father." This is a rather severe and harsh word which applies to the world: (Rom. 8:7)

Someone will say, "But I am not conscious of hatred." I do not pretend to be a Christian, but I do not hate God. Take the ordinary run of people around us in this world. If you say God is not in all their thoughts, I agree with you. But to say that they hate God, I wonder if we believe it.

their support. As the creator he demonstrated his power, Romans 1:20. By many of his miracles he showed them that he was the Redeemer. His works were such as no man ever did. No man on earth had ever been able to work the miracles. John 3:2. It was amazing that even the men of the world (attributed his power to the devil) for they said in John 6:69, he has blasphomed Jehovah and is serving Satan. Of course, the thing that (disappointed) them was that they expected an earthly ruler, a civil ruler, and he proclaimed himself as a spiritual ruler by his works.

The works of Jesus only added to the sins of unfaithfulness and enmity to him. If we only had his sermons upon record and his miracles, unbelief would be without excuse. There was no reason why they should hate him, but their unbelief was a matter of the heart and was against reason. How many in every age have been like them. The world did not come to an end with the destruction of Jerusalem.

V. The World's Hostility Interpreted As Without Cause

verse 25

In his final argument, they which hated Christ hated him without any just cause. It was (unreasonable) Jesus said.

So Jerry - April 12, 59 P.M.

Christ had been meek, lowly, compassionate and tender, and their hatred was (utterly without cause.) That his love should be met in such a way. The world is out of its mind, that they should recompense back to Christ and God. It is amazing and astonishing that when God loves that man should hate, and that without cause. They hated, of course, because their works were evil and if they worked for him they would be designed for good.

When he refers here to (fulfillment of Scripture) we observe that he was a type, for as we search the Scriptures, (Saul) hated David without cause. David had been a good citizen. Had been of great service to his kingdom. He had used his harp as well as his sword. (Absalom) hated David though David had been his father. Thus the Son of David is hated and hunted unjustly. Those that hate (Christ) hate him for his beauty. Hate him for his justice and hatred of Christ will be judged as hatred of God, for if men will not honor Christ they will not honor God. Now Jesus does not say that the world hated him just with the view of fulfilling the prophecies of Scripture, nor does he say that God prompted the world to hate him in order to fulfill prophecies. But what Jesus is saying is that God made

a prediction of what he foresaw in describing the events to come. He would have the people to know so there would be no surprise to them. God's knowledge took into account from the beginning and he looked in advance and could see that there were those in the world who would hate him.

When we look at the (cross) and we think of Christ dying for our sins, think of what he has done for us. Surely we would exclaim with him, "They hated him without cause!" Could we come away from the cross and not feel that this hatred was without justice, undeserved, unproved, Psalm 69:4. Here the suffering servant, the representative of man, the image of God dying on a cross. And Jesus interprets this as part of the world's hostility, unreasonable. (Rom 1:20)
an ingovelly man was once exhorted to become a xrian.
Excuse; I don't understand the Bible. It don't tell where Cain got his wife from:
 He was asked if it was his custom to attend to the most imp't. duties of life first or if he gave those of less imp't. first consideration.
 "at all ways put the most imp't. things first as any intelligent man would do."
 He was ask which question he regarded the most imp't - Where Cain got his wife, or where he was going to spend eternity? - where I'm going of course!!
 - without excuse -