

When The World Hates You

1 John 3:13

Introduction: John said, ***“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.”***

John wrote about things necessary for Christians to know that they have eternal life. I really think this verse serves as a link from one point to another. It also serves as instruction in order to avoid what might otherwise be a shock—that the world hates Christians.

I. Marvel Not.

- A.** The case of Cain and Abel.
 - 1.** Not much information on the actual murder.
 - 2.** Do you think that Abel just might have been surprised when his brother first began to attack him.
 - a.** What did Abel do to bring this on? Nothing.
 - b.** Cain was furious over recent events.
 - c.** ***“not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother’s righteous” (v. 12).***
 - d.** Let us be clear—at this point Cain hated Abel!
- B.** John wants the brethren to be forewarned.
 - 1.** Recall the words of Jesus (***Jn. 15:18-19; 17:14.***)
 - 2.** Can you name one time in the New Testament when Christians acted in such a way as to invite hatred?
 - 3.** You don’t have to invite, it will come calling (***2 Tim. 3:12; 1 Peter 4:16.***)

II. Open Season On Christians.

- A.** Are things worse now than ever before?
 - 1.** I have no way of comparing.
 - 2.** I have noticed in my lifetime that things have become more unusual.
 - a.** We live in a time where there is now a premium on political correctness, extreme toleration, choices galore, etc.
 - b.** Yet, the very ones who are champions for these causes are also champions in the hatred of Christians.
 - c.** The amount of opposition and hate is in proportion to the amount of faith.
 - d.** Those who do not really follow the Bible receive a goodly amount (Falwell, Pope, Robertson, et al).

“That You May Know”

- e. Yet, the level directed toward those who truly follow the Bible is greater.
- B. Root cause of opposition and hatred.
 - 1. Genuine faith in God and His word (**Rom. 10:17; 1 Cor. 15:58; 16:13**).
 - 2. Living moral lives (**Titus 2:11-14; Phil. 2:15-16**).

III. What Are Some “Guilty Points?”

- A. Real equality (**Gal. 3:27-29**). Not the false equality of the world.
- B. Real homes.
 - 1. Where it is “Adam and Eve,” not “Adam and Steve” (**Mk. 10:6-9**).
 - 2. Where children are brought up **“in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4)**, not the standard of the state.
- C. There actually exists right and wrong, good and evil (**Heb. 5:14**). Not the “gray areas” so popular with the world.

Conclusion: Yes, the world will hate you if you are a Christian. Even so, we are to be **“faithful until death” (Rev. 2:10)**. One more passage and the lesson is yours. **“But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed. And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled” (1 Peter 3:14)**.