

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Volume: 774 August 31, 2020

They Hated Jesus

Bill Brinkworth

God's Son, who gave us the only way out of Hell, should have been loved by all, but He was not. Jesus' own words acknowledged that He had been hated by many.

“The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.” John 7:7

Why would the world hate God's only Son? He did no crime. He did no wrong, only right. John 7 sheds some light on why He is hated by the world and even some of the “religious” crowd:

- Jesus' teachings were not what the world's churches teach, but what He learned from His Father (John 7:16). His righteousness exposed their unrighteousness.
- Jesus revealed that the religious Jews did not obey the laws they claimed to follow (John 7:19, 22-23).
- Jesus revealed that their judgments and discernments were based on what they saw or perceived to be true. They were not making righteous judgments (John 7:24).
- Jesus accused the unrighteous “religious” of not even knowing God (John 7:28).
- The Pharisees and others thought that Jesus was deceiving the people (John 7:47).

Christ was to be the sacrifice, so the believers in Him could go to Heaven, yet these that He came to rescue, hated Him. What a heavy burden this must have been for Jesus. He knew what they thought of Him and how they had treated Him, yet He did what He came to accomplish. What love Jesus has for our souls!

“When I did well, I heard it never; when I did ill, I heard it ever.” — *Old English Rhyme*

Why Christianity Is Opposed

Bill Brinkworth

There has always been an animosity for those that live a lifestyle in accordance with the Bible. It is the same disdain that had Christ nailed to the cross. This resentment towards Christianity is alive and doing terribly today. Bad feelings are shown against Christians that are attempting to obey the Bible to the best of their ability.

True biblical Christianity is not, nor has it ever been, a physical threat. In the past, some that have falsely claimed to be Christian, not true believers, did commit atrocities. True Christianity

has always improved nations, converted sinners into contributing members of society, given to worthy causes, helped the unfortunate, and done many other positive things.

Then why are so many voicing disdain against Christianity? Here is a brief examination as to why many oppose Christians and Christianity:

They may hate God. They may never say it, but many blame God for something they think He is responsible for or hate Him for His requiring a different way of living. This is often the root of their feelings against God.

“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.” John 15:18 Also: I John 3:13.

They may have guilt from their sin. Many deal with guilt in different ways. Some, instead of stopping their sin, turn their hearts against the one that showed them their actions were biblically wrong. One that is living the proper (most know inherently what is right and what is wrong) godly life many times heightens their guilt just by their godly example. They resent anyone living contrary to how they are living or think.

“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.” John 3:19-20

They are on the enemy's side. There are two sides: God's and Satan's. People may be against the things of God because they are against God and for Satan.

“He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.” Matthew 12:30

“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” John 8:44 Jesus was speaking to the 'religious' leaders at the time.

They see hypocrisy. The unsaved, much of the time, have expectations of how a Christian should act. When they see the professing Christian not practicing what is preached or not living the way they are expected to, bitterness can be built up against Christianity. One of the most destructive forces to the cause of Christ is the liberal church movement. They have removed much of the credibility, godliness, and character from Jesus' church, and the unsaved world sees their hypocrisy and disobedience. We are to be an example for the cause of Christ in how we live our lives. People are watching us!

“Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.” Matthew 15:7-9

There is a spiritual battle raging, so expect skirmishes.

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Ephesians 6:12

“A Christian is the keyhole through which other folks see God.” — Gibson

“Strange” and Misunderstood

Bill Brinkworth

The world does not understand Christians. As far as the unsaved are concerned, living the Christian life is foolishness to them. The Christian life does not give the unsaved enjoyment, answer their questions, or give them the things they value, so they often write it off as a waste of time.

There is, however, more than one way to see things. With unopened spiritual eyes and minds, the lost see it their way; but God sees things entirely differently:

- The unsaved see it silly to follow the teachings of a man that died a long time ago. To a regenerated mind, it is wise (I Corinthians 4:10) to follow Jesus that paid their fare for an eternity with Him.
- The lost see it as a sign of weakness (I Cor. 4:10) when Christians let others get away with doing them harm and by not getting even. It is equally weak, in their eyes, to follow the guidelines of a Book supposedly voiced by an unseen God.

To a saved person and the God in Heaven, it takes unnatural strength not to react the way our flesh wants to and wait on God to deal with a situation as He see fits. It also takes, in God's eyes, an incredible amount of strength and faith to take God at His Word and trust that if we obey, He will honor His promises.

- The world hates those that obey God's Word (I Cor. 4:10). The more a believer obeys God and His Word, the more he is despised. The believer's obedience often convicts the unsaved of their unrighteousness, and they do not know how to deal with the guilt they feel for their sins, so they hate the Christian in retribution.
- The world thinks the faithful, loyal believer to be poor (I Cor. 4:11-13) and doing the unnecessary. The truth is believers could have more than they already have, but the Christians often give away what they do have. Many believers do without the finer things in this life, so they can serve God in a faraway mission field, work for a minimal wage so they can teach in a Christian school, or sacrifice to be a pastor in a small church. Some believers have even gone to jail rather than deviate from their convictions. The lost do not have a clue as to why anyone would do such a thing.

The world sees our behavior and scratches its head. A Christian's actions and thinking are much different than how the world thinks or reacts. It is not how they were taught to be satisfied and “succeed” in this world.

A Christian knows differently, however. A believer has a different spiritual Father and sees things in a spiritual light. God often lets an obedient Christian see things the way God sees them and works in a believer's life.

The more obedient a close follower of Christ is, the more God is pleased with him. Who would you rather please: a world that has an opinion and “standard” that is always changing and may only be applied for the time we are here on this Earth or the Creator of this world that knows everything and certainly knows the best way for us?

It's Love, Not Hate

Bill Brinkworth

The word “hate” has now become a defensive word that many use to silence anyone they do not like, understand, or that does not agree with them.

The Bible defines true morality. If one points out that the Word of God declares that lying, stealing, adultery, homosexuality, etc. are wrong and hated by God, the source is ignored. However, the messenger is labeled a “hater.”

Once the messenger of morality or a difference of opinion is labeled coming from a “hater,” many believe they are justified in ignoring all that the person says, even if it is truth. The credibility of anyone that supports biblical morality or opposes the popular mob-rule thinking is quite often disregarded.

All know that when something improper or incorrect in another’s life is pointed out, that it will not be received well. So why would a person still point out another’s immorality or error?

In many cases, it is love for the person, and what can happen to them if they continue in immorality or wrongdoing, not hate that causes one to rebuke another. Love and concern are why most parents, teachers, friends, preachers, and neighbors ignore their hurt feelings and negative comments they may receive to correct those that are doing the wrong things.

It is the sin of abortion that prematurely ends the life of an unborn baby. It should be spoken against. Alcohol and drugs can kill people and destroy lives. Their use should be rebuked. Lying costs people trust and destroys relationships. It should be disdained. Gambling often costs people all they have earned and destroys their families over the ensuing financial ruin. It should be pointed out. Adultery destroys families, and innocent children have their lives changed because of another’s sin. Adultery should also be hated, along with other sins that always hurt lives.

Toleration of wrongdoing and sin will not stop bad choices and damaging lifestyles; it will only allow it to continue. It is not love that is silent while people suffer or do things that will hurt themselves or others. It is indifference and often hate.

However, it is love that often causes people to warn others of immorality, no matter the social cost to them. If one sees danger in one’s future, it should be love that warns another from being harmed!

“If a Christian does not warn others of dangers to come, who will?” — B. B.