

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for April 15, 2007

"Why the World Hates Christians"

John 15:17-19

Why does the world hate Christians?

Christians are not of this world (15:17-19).

When Jesus referred to "this world" in John 15:17-19, He was speaking of that part of God's created order that was, and continues to be, in active rebellion against God.

Christ's disciples are set free from this world and are able to end their active rebellion against God because Christ had chosen them out of this world (John 15:19).

It is true that faith in Christ must be exercised in order for us to be set free from our sins, or in other words to end our active rebellion against God, but God is the one who gives us that faith (John 6:29).

If we had continued to be a part of the world, the world would have continued to be friendly to us, but this ended when we made peace with God by exercising faith in Christ (John 15:19).

The world hates Christians because God did not simply choose them out of the world but He also appointed them to go into the world and bear fruit (John 15:16).

When the disciples of Christ are confronted with the world's hatred the importance of having nurtured a loving relationship with fellow disciples will be essential to their spiritual well being (John 15:17).

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Though the prospect of the world's hatred being unleashed toward us should cause us to draw closer together in love, it should not cause us to despair in light of Christ's own example (John 15:18)

May God give us the grace as those who have been chosen out of this world to take the battle for the souls of men into the world.