

John 15b

Verses 12 –27

12 Jesus has spoken of obeying His commands and now He tells us plainly what His command is. It wouldn't be such a problem if He did not add, "as I have loved you." Same as 13:34 Romans 12:10; Ephesians 5:2; 1Peter 4:8 How did He love us? See the next verse.

13 He showed us the greatest demonstration of love that can be expressed. 10:11,15; Romans 5:6-8 How does this relate to the previous verse?

14 Jesus' test of genuine friendship is obedience. We can't call Him Lord and not obey. 14:15,21; 1John 5:3

15 Disciples served their Rabbi. They could be referred to as servants. Jesus had a different relationship in mind. Since He hid nothing from them, but plainly talked to them of the Father, He could call them friends. Genesis 18:17; James 2:23

16 No one comes to God on their own accord. Has God chosen everyone? 6:70 Are you chosen? Romans 9:11-16 If you are chosen then what are you appointed to do? Romans 9:21 What kind of fruit? What is fruit that does not remain? Those who are chosen by God and that bear fruit that remains can expect that their prayers will be answered. Those kind of people are praying God's will for His glory. 14:13-14

17 He repeats it again! 1Peter 1:22; 2:17; 1John 3:14-17, 4:21

18 If you are being transformed into Jesus' image, the world will treat you like it treated Him. Remember He went through it first. 7:7

19 We are no longer a part of the world system. Instead we are under the Kingdom of God. The world can be brutal to those who do not fit in. 1John 4:5 Why did it hate Jesus so? John 3:19-20 Does it hate you for the same reason? James 4:4

20 He told them that in 13:16 If you speak in the power and conviction of the Spirit, some will be drawn, and some will be full of hatred.

21 They either accept or reject the Salvation of God (Jesus' name and authority). People are either searching for it, or they are avoiding it like the plague. Matthew 24:9

Why were Christians so hated? In the days of the Roman Empire, people actually appreciated the rule that Rome brought. It was a stability and peace that few people knew in that day. Emperor worship rose among the people. At first the Emperors resisted and discouraged it. Later, they saw that they could use it to keep the empire united. Once a year everyone had to burn incense to the Caesar. Rome was quite tolerant. They could then go and worship their own gods. As long as they worshipped the emperor they had their allegiance.

Christians didn't fit into this society. They had no king but Jesus. Even though they were model citizens, they were looked on with suspicion. They were different. Rumors spread that made society even more fearful. Homes were divided over conversions. They were seen as society wreckers when in fact they were the best citizens of Rome. Is something similar happening today? Will you bow to political correctness and the god of tolerance?

22-25 All sin is rebellion against God, but sin with the knowledge of the truth is sin that begs for judgment. Ignorance could have been claimed as an excuse, but now that Jesus had come and clearly told them what was evil, the excuse is gone.

Sin is a hatred of God, a refusal to yield to Him His rightful place. When Jesus did what no one ever did, they had no excuse to not believe. They deliberately chose to rebel and be their own god in spite of witnessing the evidence that proved Jesus was God. John 3:2; 7:31; Acts 17:30 Twice in the Psalms we are told that people did not have a reason to hate the Messiah but did so anyway. Psalm 35:19; 69:4

26-27 The Holy Spirit tells us that Jesus is God. He tells us of all that He did and means to us. He is the Spirit of Truth that the Father promised. It is our assignment to tell the truth about Him also. 14:16-17,26; 16:13-14