

## Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

September 29, 2021

### John 15:18 - 20

**18** If the world hates you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. **19** If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. **20** Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

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Pastor Tom began by reviewing the focus of what we have studied so far in Chapter 15 which is LOVE and FRUITS. Now 'out of nowhere' Jesus begins talking about HATE. Like a lightswitch change of direction.

There may be some instances that hate can be a good thing: for example righteous hate or hating the sin but not the sinner. But in most instances hate is not a good thing.

So why did Jesus suddenly bring up the subject of hate? Perhaps because people who don't know God don't know and follow Jesus and His teachings about love. Or so that we will understand that when we follow Jesus and people hated Him, then some of that hatred will spill over toward Christians and into churches.

### Verse 18

*If the world hates you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.*

\*The 'world' means the unsaved people here. And what is the relationship between Satan and Jesus? Satan hates Jesus yet Jesus still allows Satan access to heaven. (Pastor Tom said google it) It is not until Revelation that we see the Devil destroyed. Another note about Satan that Dr. Jeremiah has taught is that Satan also has a trinity: the Devil himself, the AntiChrist and the Beast could be the 3 parts to that trinity. Satan is an imitator and wants people to worship him.

\*Our culture /society is full of hatred right now. Why? Because people want their own way and when they don't get it, they get angry and want to be in control. We are led to believe that there is only one right way and if you don't follow that way, you'll be hated.

## Verse 19

*If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.*

\*We can see the pattern then that if someone is of the world/unsaved/agree with their views, then the world would love you/agree with you. Pastor Terry from Franklin Street United Methodist Church, said that if we didn't preach about sin, the church would be full ! Why has the church quit preaching the Gospel? Pastor Tom alluded to a recently retired preacher/professor who did not preach the Gospel and led studies and churches in that belief. People will listen to and imitate someone for a long time and begin to sound like that person or even believe teachings that are not Biblical. We must have a sifter to discern the truth by. We must ALWAYS check any teaching or preaching with the Scriptures because that person or you could be wrong.

\* Taking another look at the phrase: we are not OF the world but we are IN the world. Discussion on what this means -

-we are in the world but not of the world by not loving worldly things and by loving everyone, even those who are not saved and look different from you. Also we are in the world when we evangelize those who don't know Jesus.

Ann Graham Lotz said that most people who are saved never tell anyone else about Jesus!

Our job here in the world, after we are saved, is to bring others to Christ.

As we mentioned last week: People say they have 'found' God (even though He was not the one who was lost). Verse 19 states that Jesus has chosen/found us out of the world. So therefore the world hates us.

## Verse 20

*Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.*

\*This verse addresses servant/leadership which means the servant can lead but must not take the glory from the One who gave the talent or ability that helps to lead. Always give Jesus the glory when you are in a leadership position.

An example of this is the Soup Ministry Team. They make a great soup and people purchase the soup to keep the ministry going but the original reason for the soup was so people in the congregation would get involved in outreach ministry. The soup is only a means to begin sharing Jesus with folks in need.

Another example is the weekly Football dinner for FH football players. Original purpose was to get these boys into a church once a week. It is not to glorify the cooks or the churches or the speakers. Difficult to do right now since they have moved the dinners into the school during covid.

\*And so we can expect persecution since Jesus suffered it as well. But even in His persecution people heard His word and therefore they are now responsible for what to do with that word. If the world hears the word then the seeds have been planted. Bible2School is a place where the seeds of God's truth are being planted to children in our area.

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Pastor Tom opened the phone lines and everyone said goodnight.