

INTRODUCTION

- * We are in the midst of John's account of the ministry of Jesus Christ where Jesus, in His final hours, is intimately sharing with His disciples regarding what to expect after He leaves them.
- * **Jesus promised His disciples** that He would prepare a *monae* for each of those who follow Him in His Father's house, that He would intercede on their behalf with the Father, that He would send the Holy Spirit to dwell in those who loved Him and kept His commandments, that He and the Father would set up their *monae* in that individual as well, and that He would give them His peace. Then, **Jesus exhorted His disciples** to abide (*meno*) in Him - in His Word and in His love. If they did this, they would be fruitful in their lives and the Father would be glorified.
- * Last week, we began to consider Jesus' instruction to the disciples regarding their interaction with the world ... that they were in the world but not truly of the world. As a result of being His disciples, the world would hate them as it hates Him. In fact, Jesus shared that the world hated Him without a cause. Yet, as we experience this persecution from the world, we need to constantly remember that Jesus promised to be with us through it, and that the Holy Spirit would be at work - in our lives and, through our lives, in the world.
- * Today, we consider the remainder of the portion of Scripture that began last week.

INSTRUCTION

I. THE PERSECUTION THAT IS TO COME (15:18-16:3)

A. The Reason for our Persecution

1. BECAUSE OF OUR ASSOCIATION WITH CHRIST

- a. The Ignorance of the World (15:18-21)
- b. The Condemnation of the World (15:22-24)
- c. The Hatred of the World (15:25; Psalm 35:19)

2. BECAUSE OF OUR DISASSOCIATION WITH THE WORLD (cf. Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:17-24; 1 Peter 4:1-5; Matthew 5:1-16)

B. The Extent of our Persecution (16:1-3)

1. THE WARNING OF CHRIST (v. 1)
2. THE WARPED THINKING OF THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS (v. 2)

II. THE P _____ THAT IS TO COME (15:26-27; 16:4-15)

A. His C _____ (cf. John 20:22)

B. His C _____ of the World (v. 8-11)

1. THE MEANING OF THE WORD (cf. John 8:46)

2. THE REBUKING OF THE LORD

- * The LORD rebukes _____ (cf. Hebrews 12:5; Revelation 3:19; John 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:3-4)
- * The LORD rebukes _____
 - OF SIN:
 - OF RIGHTEOUSNESS:
 - OF JUDGMENT:

- * The LORD rebukes _____ (cf. Ephesians 5:11-13; 1 Corinthians 14:24; 2 Timothy 4:1-4)

C. His C _____ of the Saints

1. HE WILL T _____ (cf. 15:26; Matthew 10: 16-20)
2. HE WILL G _____ (cf. 16:13-15; 14:26)

INTROSPECTION

- * HOW COMMITTED TO CHRIST ARE YOU? ARE YOU WILLING TO SUFFER FOR THE TESTIMONY OF HIS NAME?
- * HAS THE HOLY SPIRIT BEEN REPROVING YOU OF SIN? HOW HAVE YOU RESPONDED?
- * HOW BOLD ARE YOU IN YOUR WITNESS FOR CHRIST?
- * HOW FAITHFUL ARE YOU IN READING AND STUDYING OF GOD'S WORD - SEARCHING FOR TRUTH?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ... AND, THEREFORE, THE WAY YOU ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * Considering the verses above, discuss further how our disassociation from the world becomes a rebuke to the world, and then how that might lead to persecution.