

Episode #2-09 – What Brings Accountability

I. The purpose of the gospel of John is to produce believers in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior of the world, and that Jesus is the Son of God, God represented in human form.

II. We continue to consider events leading up to the Lord's death. In John 15, the Lord continues His teaching to His disciples as they travel from the upper room where they had the last supper to the garden of Gethsemane. In this portion, the Lord explains to them that the world will hate them, but that they hated Him first.

III. John 15:18-25. The hatred of the world.

- A. V.20. The world (of Israel!) would respond to them as it had responded to Christ.
- B. V.21. Your name=your reputation, the esteem others hold you in. Because His name attached to them, they will be persecuted. Those who persecuted them thought they were serving God, but really they served only a god they made up in their own minds. The same true of many today, even among those called "Christians." Sent=pempo.
- C. V.22. Very important truths are established by this verse!
 - 1. Acts 10:34-35. Cornelius feared God and worked righteousness, Acts 10:2, and so was accepted with God. The same is true in every nation.
 - 2. When Christ spoke words to them, they had a great opportunity to believe and receive much more blessings. If they rejected, they would lose all they had before. There is no more excuse for sin once truth is revealed!
 - 3. This shows that before they had an excuse, and had done all required of them.
- D. V.23. It is impossible to just hate the Son and not the Father. The two are inseparable.
- E. V.24. His works brought them under a new responsibility. They would have had no sin if they did not see them. Like Cornelius, were all right as they were. Once Peter came to Cornelius, all hung in the balance. Cornelius received a far more exalted place when he believed. These men, however, lost out when they refused to believe.
- F. V.25. Psalm 35:19, 69:4. What happened to the Lord was part of God's perfect plan. "Without a cause" = Greek *dorean*, as in Romans 3:24. We are justified freely (without a cause) by His grace. Sad that the Justifier was hated without a cause!

IV. John 15:26-27. The Helper Part 2: His testimony.

- A. V.26. Again we read of the Paraclete (John 14:16-17.) He was Sent by the Lord Jesus, and proceeded from the Father. The two are one in action and purpose. The Spirit's mission is not to glorify Himself, just like the Son, John 7:18. When we glorify the Son, we are glorifying the Spirit, for we make His mission successful.
- B. V.27. They had known Him from the beginning (a very important phrase in John.) This made them excellent witnesses. This cannot possibly apply to you and me.

V. Conclusion: The Lord revealed to His disciples that the world will hate them just as it hated Him, but those who love the Lord will love them. If the Lord had not come and done the things He did, those who hated Him would not have had sin. The Lord's actions bring accountability. The Helper will come and testify of Him, and they will testify of Him as well. Let us too testify of all that our Lord and Savior has done for us as believers!