

INTRODUCTION

1. The temptation to anger. Spiritual warfare: Lk 6:27-31. Love enemies - defeat enemies: Eph 6:11-12
2. Think of *love & hate* in covenantal categories - worship or hate: Rm 1. Love & hate what Jesus loves & hates [Rv 2:6] heresy & immorality.
3. Love people - discern influence of demonic doctrines: some are unwitting victims & some are committed persecutors - all can be saved.
 - i. 2T 2:24-26 ensnared by devil, held captive
 - ii. 1T 1:13-16 Saul the Terrorist was saved as example for us
4. Strategy is same for captives of Devil & captains of Devil - Col 4:5-6

1st: Jesus is Hated

1. Jesus' dominant disposition toward people was compassion - winsome welcoming yet at times aloof & even called Peter "Satan".
2. Public ministry was *amazing*: awestruck - gripped w/ fear as He accomplished His Messianic mission.
3. Public ministry could be hostile - Jn 7:19-20; 25; 11:53 - they did kill Him. Recall Lk 20 - 3-round tag-team wrestling match: Jesus won - authority.
4. Astounding - Jesus, who healed multitudes, taught on kingdom peace was hated & murdered - legally by authorities & demanded by mob. Why?
5. Gn 3:15 - *enmity* fuels the engine of history.

2nd: The Disciples of Jesus are Hated

1. Mat 10:16-25 moral confusion - follower of Jesus seen as "evil".
2. Challenge - mix of common grace & common curse - demonic deception
3. What unconverted people hate: 1] Prv 1:22-33; 2] Ps 50:16-23
 - i. Notice theology, worship [Ist & IInd] - ethic of 2nd table; issues of conscience: forming moral judgment.
 - ii. Hatred is rebellion against God's authority
4. Jn 15:17-25 church: island of love in ocean of hate - sound harsh? Jesus sees from vantage point of eternity. Ps 25:19; 35:19-20

3rd: The Disciples of Jesus Hate What Jesus Hates

1. Imprecatory Pss - imprecation: malediction not benediction]- *woes* of Isa 5; Hab 2; Mt 23; Lk 6; Gal 1 [anathema]; Rv 18 [Babylon]. Ps 139:19-24
2. Cf. Ps 26:5; 31:6; 119:104; 119:163; 97:10a; Prv 8:13; Amos 5: 15
3. David fought in actual war - we do not fight w/ weapons of flesh - not as sons of thunder [Lk 9:55-56; Jn 3:17].
4. Our place in Redemptive History is key - we follow Jesus as He goes to the cross but commune w/ the risen, enthroned Jesus - Mat 13:24-30
5. Be discerning - Prv 9:7-8. Mat 7:1-6 [Jn 7:24].
6. A "foregone conclusion" aspect to Rev: what has been said has been said & what has been heard has been heard & what has been done has been done.
 - i. Rm 12:17-21 *leave room for the wrath of God.*
 - ii. Present wrath [Rm 1:18] & coming day of wrath of the Lamb.
7. Express Jesus' earthly ministry: *when the kindness of God our Savior & His love for mankind appeared* [Tit 3:4] & *leave room for wrath of God*. In heaven, we will view wrath differently - Rv16:4
8. Tension: love while perceiving present & impending wrath: love-hate relationship.
9. Come to terms w/ the Lamb -who takes away sin [Jn 1:29]; enthroned as King [Rv 5:6] & wrath of Lamb [Rv 6] who damns His enemies to hell. Overcome or be overcome. Let us go way of Lamb & overcome.