



Closer than we think!

PART 2 OF 5

July 9, 2018

JOHN 15:18-25 NKJV – (18) “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. **(19)** If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. **(20)** Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. **(21)** But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. **(22)** If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. **(23)** He who hates Me hates My Father also. **(24)** If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. **(25)** But *this happened* that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, ‘They hated Me without a cause.’

Christians will be hated by all nations. Immediately after Jesus tells His disciples about coming persecution in the last days, He states that “*you will be hated by all nations because of me*” (**Matthew 24:9**). This sign is more difficult to gauge because there is not a hatred index that we can use to determine how much the world hates Christians. But we can look at evidence of rising hatred in two of the areas of the world where Christianity used to dominate: America and Europe. For centuries these two centers of human civilization were the breadbasket of the Christian religion. But over the past several decades these have become a wasteland of Christian support, Europe more so with America following closely behind. Laws and regulations are stripping back Christian influences in places where we once flourished. Christianity is not celebrated anymore in many nations; rather it is suppressed. Jesus forewarned that **before the end** of the world that we would be hated by all nations because of our allegiance to Jesus. Again, that time is closer than we think!

SCRIPTURE READING: DANIEL 8:17

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: It’s not how we make mistakes but how we correct them that defines us.