

John 15:18-16:4, “Take Some Advice, Pilgrim”

Last Sunday: Four Exhortations on Being Friends of Christ

Today: “Pilgrim.” Christ removes the element of surprise in our persecution (Carson).

**15:18**/ “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.”

- **κόσμος** (kosmos) - “the created moral order in active rebellion against God” (Carson)
- Reason #1 Why does the world hate you? You are not of the world.
- Col. 1:13, “He has rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.”

**15:19**/ “I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”

- Reason #2 Why does the world hate you? You were chosen out of the world.
- Eph. 1:4, “He chose us in Him before the creation of the world...”

**15:20**/ “A servant is not greater than his master...”

- Persecute: **Διώκω** (dioko) - aggressively chase, like a hunter pursuing an animal
- Reason #3 Why does the world hate you? “Since we share in the life of Christ, we share in his fate” (S. Lewis Johnson).
- Mt. 10:25, “If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul (ruler of demons), how much more will they malign the members of his household!”

**15:26**/ “The Helper ... who proceeds from the Father...”

- This statement was a huge controversy that led to the Great Schism of 1054.
- “Proceeds” only from the Father (Eastern), OR from the Father and the Son (Western)?
- The Filioque – A Latin term meaning, “And the Son”
  - Positive: This phrase was added to the Nicene Creed in the sixth century to help clarify the divinity of the Son and to combat Arianism.
  - Negative: Perhaps makes the Holy Spirit look like the weakest of the three persons

**16:1**/ “I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away.”

- **Σκανδαλίζω** (skandalizo) - to cause to stumble, “to fall into a trap”
- Our greatest danger in life is not persecution, or even death; it is apostasy.

**16:3**/ “And they will do these things because they have not known the Father nor me.”

- Reason #4 Why does the world hate you? They do not know the Godhead.
- 1 Jn. 4:8, “Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”
- A. W. Pink, “Where profession is not real, even those who bear the name of Christ are part of ‘the world,’ and they are the first to persecute those who *do* follow Christ. When

the walk of the Christian condemns that of the worldly professor ... then enmity is at once aroused and persecution follows...”

“I have never felt any persecution from unbelievers.” There are two possible reasons why:

1. God’s common grace:
  - a. Acts 9:31, “So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up.”
  - b. Rom. 12:18, “As far as it depends upon you be at peace with all men.”
2. They don’t know you are a believer. Does the life of Christ shine through you in your actions AND the gospel that you speak?