

RUSSELL SANDERS

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OUR LORD'S PRAYER – JOHN 17

LESSON 16 v. 14b and 16

In regard of Jesus' prayer to Father about His disciples (and all His followers), He said, ***"...the world hated them because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."***

In Luke 21:17 Jesus says, ***"and ye shall be hated of all (people) for my name's sake."*** Verse 16 says we will be betrayed, some even killed, because of this hatred, but verse 18 says, ***"But there shall not a hair of your head perish"*** as in eternal punishment, because as Matthew 10:22 says, ***"...ye shall be hated...but (they) that endureth to the end shall be saved."*** Jesus even goes so far as to say (Luke 6:22-23), ***"Blessed are ye when (they) shall hate you...Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven."***

Jesus came into this world, but He was not OF the world. Verse 16 says, ***"They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."*** He is the eternal One from the beginning. We also are in this world temporarily, but because His life is now within us, we also are not OF this world. We are citizens of heaven. That is why those of this world, a/k/a/Satan's dominion, hate us because they cannot know Truth. The world hates us because Satan hates God, and we are God's.

In America, we as evangelical Christians have already been officially labeled by our Homeland Security Department as a radical right-wing terrorist group. Yes, that is true, although not much publicized. Left wing groups have already begun to burn churches, destroy symbols of Christianity, and speak of us as evil.

Many European countries are also seeing us as evil; even their long-established "Christian" churches are coming against nearly everything in the Bible about morality and even Jesus, himself. They call evil as good and call good as hateful (evil).

It is even worse in countries where persecution is rife, especially Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. It may not seem to be as bad here, but we have already begun down that "slippery slope." It will only get worse, much worse.

No matter the situation, with or without persecution, we must never give up the faith. Great is the reward for faithfulness to those who are true to the very end of their life here on earth.

Keep your eyes of faith upon Jesus, and the joy of your salvation shall bring you His peace, the only true peace, that surpasses human understanding.