Why Hate Christians?

(The World's Hatred for Bible-Believing Christians)
John 15:18-16:6
8-24-2025

Introduction:

*** Why does the world hate Bible-believing Christians?**

Jesus Christ gives 3 Reasons why:

I. ***The World hates you because of their*** **OPPOSITION to Jesus Christ**
(v.18-20)
(The world is on opposite sides and has been deceived into thinking that Christ is their enemy)

II. ***The World hates you because of their*** **IGNORANCE of God the Father**
(v.21; 16:1-6)
(The world is ignorant of the true & living God and of Christ's relationship with Him)

III. ***The World hates you because of their*** **REBELLION against the Truth**
(v.22-25)
(The world is deliberately defiant against the revealed authenticating evidence of Jesus Christ)

Conclusion: v.26-27

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(The World's Hatred for Bible-Believing Christians)
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8-31-2025

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Introduction: **The bloody history of Christian persecution**

The articles below are cited from the web site: https://globalchristianrelief.org/ See also www.vom.org

1. Nigeria: violence and death at the hands of extremist groups
According to Global Christian Relief's 2025 Red List, a groundbreaking collection of verified records on global religious persecution, Nigeria is the deadliest country in the world for Christians. In January 2025, Baptist Press noted that Nigeria led the world in verified killings and abductions related to persecution

2. North Korea: one of the most oppressive regimes for Christians
North Korea is known for its brutal suppression of religious freedom. Any expression of faith outside of state-sanctioned activities is met with harsh punishment. According to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), Christians in North Korea face imprisonment in labor camps, torture and even execution. Owning a Bible or gathering for worship can result in death.

3. India: rising attacks from Hindu nationalist groups
Christian communities in India are increasingly under attack from Hindu nationalist groups. These groups target Protestant churches, harass Christians and push for laws that make it harder to practice Christianity. Some states have introduced anti-conversion laws that make it dangerous for believers to share their faith. Human Rights Watch reports that violence against Christians has been rising, with churches vandalized and pastors attacked.

4. China: government crackdown on Christian worship
In China, the government's "Sinicization" policy aims to bring all religions under strict state control. Amnesty International reports that Christian persecution in China includes church closures, surveillance of religious gatherings and the removal of crosses and Christian symbols. Protestant churches are especially targeted, with many pastors being detained for their faith.

5. Pakistan: the misuse of blasphemy laws against Christians
In Pakistan, Christians face severe discrimination and persecution. The country's strict blasphemy laws are often used to target religious minorities, including Christians. The U.S. Department of State's Report on International Religious Freedom highlights cases where Christians have been falsely accused of blasphemy, leading to imprisonment or even mob violence. Many Christians also struggle with social and economic discrimination, making it difficult to find jobs or housing.

More Christians are persecuted and martyred for their faith in this century than all previous centuries combined. Nearly two thirds of all Christians alive in the world today suffer persecution in varying degrees, including the loss of freedom, discrimination, imprisonment, slavery, torture and even death.

For Millions, the Truth is an Extremely Dangerous Thing to Believe:

- Christians are the most persecuted people group on the earth
- Every two hours a Christian is killed for following Jesus
- 1 in 8 Christians Worldwide experience high levels of persection

MISSIONARY AND TWO YOUNG SONS KILLED IN INDIA

The Evangelical Fellowship of India reported that an Australian missionary and his two young sons were killed in India by members of a militant Hindu group. Mr. Graham Stewart Staines, a 58 year old Australian missionary, and his two sons, Philip (age 10) and Timothy (age 8) were asleep inside their vehicle when it was doused with gasoline and set ablaze.
The attack took place in Manoharpur village in the District of Keonjhar in the State of Orissa. The militants believed to be responsible belong to the radical Hindu nationalist group Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). The RSS is believed to have been responsible for a number of attacks against Christians and churches in recent months.
Mr. Staines and his wife have been faithfully serving as missionaries with the Evangelical Missionary Society of Mayurbhanj for more than 30 years, working mostly among lepers.

To Be a Martyr for the Lord

Sung by persecuted Christians in China

1. From the time the early church appeared on the day of Pentecost,
the followers of the Lord all willingly sacrificed themselves.
Tens of thousands have sacrificed their lives that the Gospel might prosper.
As such they have obtained the crown of life.

2. Those apostles who loved the Lord to the end,
Willingly followed the Lord down the path of suffering.
John was exiled to the lonely isle of Patmos.
Stephen was crushed to death with stones by the crowd.
3. Matthew was cut to death in Persia by the people.
Mark died as his two legs were pulled apart by horses.
Doctor Luke was cruelly hanged.
Peter, Philip and Simon were crucified on a cross.
4. Bartholomew was skinned alive by the heathen,
Thomas died in India as five horses pulled apart his body,
The apostle James was beheaded by King Herod,
Little James was cut up by a sharp saw.
5. James the brother of the Lord was stoned to death,
Judas was bound to a pillar and died by arrows,
Matthias had his head cut off in Jerusalem.
Paul was a martyr under Emperor Nero.
6. I am willing to take up the cross and go forward,
To follow the apostles down the road of sacrifice.
That tens of thousands of precious souls can be saved,
I am willing to leave all and be a martyr for the Lord.
Chorus: To be a martyr for the Lord, to be a martyr for the Lord,
I am willing to die gloriously for the Lord.

Persecution of believers has been going on for a long time!

- David by Saul and many others (see Psalms)
- Daniel and the Lion's den
- Isaiah cut in two
- Nero's persecution of the Christians in Paul's day
- The decade of Diocletian persecution against The Christians
- Study: Foxes Book of Martyrs.

Hebrews 11:36-38
And others had trial of *cruel* mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and *in* mountains, and *in* dens and caves of the earth.

In the Middle Ages (Dark Ages) the Roman Catholic Inquisition persecuted and martyred multitudes who rose up in protest against the Catholic system.

"Many were those noble souls who rejected the false claims of the Pope, looking instead to the Lord Jesus for salvation and truth. These were called "heretics" and were bitterly persecuted by the RCC" (Woodrow, p. 105).

A few documented examples of RCC persecutions:

1. "Ad Extrpanda" issue by Pope Innocent IV in 1252. This document stated that heretics were to be "crushed like venomous snakes." It formally approved the use of torture." (Woodrow, p. 105).

2. Inquisitions in the Netherlands - 21 Protestants hung on a tree (Woodrow, p. 107).

3. At Lavaur in 1211 - 100,000 Albigenses (protestants) were killed and burned (p. 108).

4. 10,000 Huguenots were killed in the bloody massacre in Paris on St. Bartholomew's Day, 1572 (p. 108).

(SEE Babylon Mystery Religion, Woodrow, p. 105-109).

Cp. the martyr's cry (Rev. 6:10).

Michael & Margeretta Satler - Michael had been a priest, but left the priesthood after he found there was no Biblical evidence for celibacy. So he left and was married. More than that, they joined a group called the Anabaptists. The prefix Ana means again. The again-baptizers; more easily said, re-baptizers. The Anabaptists were people who believed that their infant baptism didn't count, because they said it's not found in the Bible; therefore, we need to be re-baptized as adults upon profession of faith. And so they went ahead as adults, having professed faith in Christ, and they baptized one another as part of a little group way back in Germany in 1526. When they were coming back from a little town called Schlicime, they were arrested while walking through the forest and captured and on May 17, 1526, they were tried, and after 1 1/2 hours, the judges came back with this verdict, "Michael Satler shall be committed to the hangman who shall take him to the square and there first cut out his tongue and then chain him to a wagon, tear his body twice with hot tongs and five times more before the gate, then burn his body to powder as an arch-heretic." He was brought to the place, and just before he died, he cried, "Almighty eternal God, thou art the truth, and because I have not been shown to be in error [he had asked if he could debate the point from the Bible, but his prosecutors said "No."], I with thy help on this day testify to the truth and seal it with my blood." With a sack of powder tied around his neck to hasten the death, Satler was thrown into the fire. When the ropes on his hands burned through, the dying man raised his hands in a sign of triumph and prayed, "Father, I commend my spirit into thy hands." His wife was persuaded to recant, but she did not. Eight days later, she was forcibly drowned in the Necar River.

Erwin Lutzer - "The Anabaptist Controversy" (tape: origins of infant baptism)

Note Previous Context of John 15:

The need to love one another (John 15:12, 17) is all the more necessary in light of the hatred believers will experience from the world (vv. 18 ff).

*** Why does the world hate Bible-believing Christians?**

Jesus Christ gives 3 Reasons why:

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(The world is on <u>opposite sides</u> and has been deceived into thinking that Christ is their enemy)

v. 18
"The world" – *kosmos* – people devoid of God's Spirit (Jn. 14:17) who are part of a Satanic arrangement, who think and act in a manner which is opposite that of God's standard.

--Their <u>minds</u> are blinded by the "god" (Satan) of this world" (2 Cor. 4:4).

--Their <u>philosophy</u> is that of humanism (man being the measure of all things) (Col. 2:8)

--Their <u>wisdom</u> is considered by God as foolishness (1 Cor. 3:19)

--Their <u>actions</u> are dictated by demonic spirits and are characterized by disobedience (Eph. 2:2) and self-centered lust of the flesh and of the mind (Eph. 2:3)

--They have been injected (as it were) with a Satanic anesthetic and passively <u>lie helpless</u> in the lap of the wicked one (1 John 5:190

For the comfort that it's worth, the persecuted believer can take encouragement in knowing that he/she is not the first to be wrongly attacked.

"It hated Me before it hated you" – the world's ultimate object of attack is not the Christian, but the <u>Christ</u> of Christians. This prior hatred of Christ is as old as sin. Satan's ultimate attack is made against the Lord Jesus.

"It hated Me" – Perfect, active indicative – "has hated and still hates" (Robertson, p. 261).

The precious Lord Jesus has been a target of attack throughout history.

--His holy Name is blasphemed as people use the name "Jesus Christ" as a curse word when angry or upset. His name is constantly uttered in vain.

Why is He the object of ridicule, rejection, and slander? Because He is the "way, the truth, and the life," and Satan knows it and demons know it. "We know who You are [they said], the Holy One of God." Therefore, Satan's ultimate attack is against the Lord Jesus Christ and anything connected to Him.

v. 19
"If ye were of the world" – if you belonged to the world; if you were on the same side or same team as the world, you would be loved by the world.

"I have chosen you out of the world" – out of the millions of people in the world, Jesus Christ has selected a remnant by grace to belong to Himself.

Believers have been "called out" from the world; therefore, the world "church" (*eklesia*) literally means "the called out ones."

When someone believes in Christ, they are "translated out of the kingdom of this world into the kingdom of His dear Son."" There is immediately a change of lifestyle, love, and lordship. This change of allegiance, this change of sides is what makes you a target of attack. "All who live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

"Therefore the world hateth you" – the world knows that a born-again Christian is "not one of us" anymore. In most cases, they will leave you like the plague; they will drop you like a "hot potato."

ILLUS: There is something about changing sides on a team that can change your status from being a hero to being enemy #1. EX: when NFL players are traded to a new team.

"Does the world hate us? If not, why not? Has the world become more Christian or Christians more worldly? (Robertson, p. 262).

Because your light is a rebuke to their darkness and because your holiness is a rebuke to their unrighteousness, the world will seek to extinguish your light and stamp out your holiness.

v. 20
"The word that I said" – a reference to John 13:16. "If they have persecuted Me [the perfect, righteous, gracious, holy, truthful Lord Jesus], they will also persecute you [His mere servant]."

"Persecute" – (*dioko*) = to chase like a wild beast; to hunt down (so as to destroy).

"The attack would move from the shepherd to the sheep. As surely as their lives would reflect Christ, so surely would they attract the hatred of sinful men (cf. Gal. 4:29)" (Wycliffe Commentary, p. 1108).

"If they have kept My saying [the word of God I gave while on earth], **they will keep yours also** [the word of God we preach today]**.**

The point: whether positive or negative – however people treat Jesus Christ will manifest itself by how they treat those who belong to Jesus Christ.

Implicit in this text is the truth that people are either <u>for</u> or <u>against</u> Jesus Christ. All of mankind fits into one of two categories. They are either saved or lost, believers or unbelievers, headed for heaven or hell. There is no middle ground.

II. *The World hates you because of their* <u>IGNORANCE</u> <u>of God the Father</u> (v.21; 16:1-6)

(The world is ignorant of the true & living God and of Christ's relationship with Him)

v. 21

"But all these things will they <u>do</u> unto you" – hatred will manifest itself by hurtful <u>activity</u>.

"For My name's sake" – Because of my name; i.e. because the believer serves the Lord Jesus Christ. You could pick any other name to serve (Muhammad, Mary, Pope John Paul, Sun Myong Moon) and the world would not bother you; but there is something about Jesus Christ that deeply upsets those of the world. Why?

"Because they know not Him [the Father] **that sent Me" –** The persecutors are ignorant of the true and living god and of Christ's relationship with Him.

Jesus will (in vv. 22-25) demonstrate that such ignorance is inexcusable and unjustified, but the world willfully remains ignorant of Christ and His relationship to God the Father despite all the evidence He gave.

"The disciples were being inducted into the circle of the misunderstood, sharing this distinction with their Lord" (Wycliffe, p. 1108).

16:1

Jesus' forewarning of the opposition that awaits His disciples would serve as a preventative measure (that is, that we would not stumble or be "offended" when those times of tribulation come to us).

16:2
"Out of the synagogues" – synagogues were Jewish places of worship. Paul would attempt to bring the Gospel to Jews in the synagogues first, but would eventually no longer be tolerated.

"The rabbis so felt when they crucified Jesus and when they persecuted the disciples (Acts 6:13, 7:57ff). No persecution is more bitter than when done by religious enthusiasts and bigots, like the Spanish Inquisition" (Robertson, p. 265).

"Will think [in ignorance] **that he doeth God service" –** Saul of Tarsus thought that he was serving God by opposing Christians and Christianity (Acts 8:1-3, 9:1-2) (as does radical Islam today).

Saul's persecution of believers was out of ignorance. "Who art thou, Lord?" he asked in Acts 9. Paul said:
1 Tim. 1:12-13
And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; [13] Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

Acts 26:9-11
I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. [10] Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. [11] And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities.

(cp. Gal. 1:13; Phil. 3:6)

16:3
Anti-Christian persecution is due to an ignorance of the true God and His Son Jesus Christ.

--"Father, forgive them [said Jesus] for they know not what they do."

--"For had they know it, they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory."

16:4
When predictive prophecy comes to fruition, it serves to bolsters our faith. A knowledge of the Great Tribulation will benefit the suffers who live during that time (Rev. 14:12).

"Forewarned is to be forearmed."

16:5-6
The disciples lost all desire to learn about where Christ was going because of the sudden sorrow that struck their hearts due to His warning of impending trouble.

III. *The World hates you because of their* REBELLION against the Truth (v.22-25)

(The world is deliberately defiant against the revealed authenticating evidence of Jesus Christ)

v. 22

Was such ignorance concerning Jesus Christ and His relationship to the Father justified? NO.

Because He had given ample evidence of His Messiahship by the miracles He performed and the messages He gave.

"They had not had sin" – In context this refers to the sin of hating Christ and the people who belong to Him.

"They have no cloak for their sin" – No excusable covering for their sin of rejecting Christ.

v. 23

Due to Christ's oneness with the Father, to hate Him is to hate the Father also (just as to honor Him was to honor the Father also – John 5:23).

v. 24

Jesus' miracles authenticated Him as the true Son of God.

He had restored sight to the blind, made deaf ears hear and dumb tongues speak; He cast out demons, raised the dead (EX: Lazarus), turned water to wine, walked on water and calmed the storm; He healed paralytics, restored ruined limbs of people's bodies, fed multitudes with a sack lunch, etc.

[Nicodemus had acknowledged that God had to be with Jesus – Jn. 3:1). Yet other people saw all of these astounding, unparalleled miracles and still stubbornly refused to believe.

v. 25

"They hated Me without a cause" – a reference to Psalm 35:19 and 69:4. There is absolutely no reason whatsoever that anyone should hate and reject Jesus Christ!

Romans 1:20 shows how no one has an excuse to reject God or be a fool and say that there is no God. Romans 1:20 - For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

Just as creation gives ample evidence for the existence of God, Christ's life, words and works give ample evidence for His messiahship. No one has any excuse who rejects the evidence of the New Testament regarding Him.

Conclusion: v.26-27

v. 26
"He [the Spirit] **shall testify of Me" –** the promotion of Jesus Christ is the Holy Spirit's #1 ministry and mission.

v. 27
In concert with the Spirit, the apostles could give credible evidence on Christ's behalf, because they had been with Him from the very beginning of His public ministry.

16:1 – Let's not ever be ashamed of Jesus Christ.

Let's no ever cower and recoil in fear or fail to promote His cause! Let's stand for Him no matter what comes.

(Give the testimony of the African missionary)

Written By A Young African Pastor and Tacked on The Wall of His House

I'm part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have Holy Spirit Power. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I'm a disciple of His. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still.

My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, my future is secure. I'm finished and done with my low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, mundane talking, cheap living, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need pre-eminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by power.

My face is set, by gait is fast, my goal is Heaven, my road is narrow, my way rough, my companion few, my Guide reliable, my mission clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the adversary, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up, let up, until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, preached up for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus. I must go till He comes, give till I drop, preach till all know, and work till He stops me. And when He comes for His own, He will have no problem recognizing me – my banner will be clear.

Don’t get discouraged when family, “friends,” neighbors or co-workers treat you as if you were their enemy. Never seek trouble, but don’t be shocked when it comes.

1 Peter 4:12-13
Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: [13] But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

To the unsaved: Having heard the evidence in favor of Christ, you have to render a verdict. You are either for Him or against Him.