

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN F E L L O W S H I P

Love, Hate & Family

Matthew 10:21-33

We are a product of our times in many ways. So were they.

- We first hear this through the ears of our experience
- Let's also think of what it meant to them

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10:21-22, "Now brother will deliver up **brother to death**, and a **father his child**; and **children** will rise up **against parents** and cause them to be put to death. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved."

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Loving obedience to Christ convicts all who deny Him

- They see **people as the source** of conviction accusing them...
- **Not the Holy Spirit** living in people
- People **either bow** to His righteousness...
- **Or deny & attack** it, to dismiss or eliminate it

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"And **you will be hated by all** for My name's sake."

- **Matthew 12:30**, "Anyone who is not with Me is against Me, and anyone who does not gather with Me scatters."
- **There is no neutral ground**
- There is no demographic slice **exempt from** rejecting God's rightful place...
- And turning on those who serve & represent Him

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"for My name's sake."

- Standing with Christ is **seen by those who don't** as standing against them

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We stand **FOR Christ**, not against them

- **Because** they are against Him...
- All who **don't support them**, they declare to be against them
- Being **against what they don't believe** defines them
- So, **they define others as being against**, just as they are

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"But **he who endures to the end** will be saved."

- **Luke 9:62**, Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."
- Our salvation **isn't getting a ticket to heaven**. It's living as an active family member.

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10:23, "When they persecute you in this city, **flee to another**. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes."

- There will be others elsewhere who haven't heard

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"you will not have gone through the cities of Israel **before the Son of Man comes**."

- **What is He referring to?**
- How does this fit with contemporary end-times beliefs?
- What else does Jesus say about His coming in the future?

Matthew 24:1-26 (15-16), Mark 13:14-23 & Luke 21:20-24

- Christian faith uniformly believed this to be **the great tribulation...**
- **The destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 by Titus**
- They believed it was Jesus bringing **the judgement of Jerusalem** for rejecting Him
- Pre-tribulation rapture was first suggested by John Nelson Darby **in the 1830's**

Matthew 24:27-31, Mark 13:24-27 & Luke 21:25-28

- These all refer to the second coming of Christ
- **II Thessalonians 4:15-17**, His personal return & appearance
- All three accounts were written prior to the destruction of Jerusalem

Belief in **Darby's unprecedented suggestion** has become influential

- Though it has **no foundation** in church history...
- It has led some to interpret scripture in light of that belief
- It has, unfortunately become a source of division in the church

I am not engaging that disagreement

- I am simply presenting the scripture as written,
- And as understood for the first 1,800 years of church history
- **II Timothy 3:16**

10:24-25, "A disciple is not **above his teacher**, nor a servant **above his master**. It is enough for a disciple that he **be like his teacher**, and a servant **like his master**. If they have called the master of the house **Beelzebub**, **how much more** will they call those of his household!"

Christ's followers should anticipate being treated just as He was

Philippians 2:5-8, Have this mind among yourselves, **which is yours in Christ Jesus**, who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, **He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death**, even death on a cross.

If they called Him of the devil, it shouldn't shock us if we are

- Our current culture calls **Biblical morality hateful**
- All but Judas & John were executed for their faith in Christ
- **Persecution less than death** shouldn't knock us off our course

10:26-27, "Therefore **do not fear them**. For there is nothing **covered** that will not be **revealed**, and **hidden** that will not be **known**. Whatever I tell you in the dark, **speak in the light**; and what you hear in a whisper, **proclaim on the housetops**."

- All will be made known at the judgement
- Both good & evil. **Their condemnation & your vindication**
- We are not here to defend ourselves. We trust God for that

10:28, "And **do not fear those who** kill the body but **cannot kill the soul**. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

- **Romans 6:3-11**, Resurrection Life is ours, both **now & forever!**
- **I John 4:17-19**, There is **no fear** in love.
- There's nothing of eternal value they can take from us

10:29-31, "Aren't two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's consent. But even the hairs of your head have all been counted. Do not fear therefore; you are worth more than many sparrows."

- You live within the full value of **the Father's love for Christ!**

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10:32-33, "Therefore **whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father** who is in heaven. But **whoever denies Me** before men, **him I will also deny** before My Father who is in heaven."

- Whoever **openly lives for Me** in this world...
- I will **openly declare to be Mine**, now & at the judgement!

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Whoever chooses to **live apart from Me** in this world...

- I will openly disown forever.
- **Matthew 7:21**, "Then I will declare to them, **'I never knew you; depart from Me'**"
- We all **define our own eternity**, here & now.