

Resting in God

“The heart confidence that our God is capable to give us power to walk through the perils of the world”

Study 2

John 15:19 (Amplified Bible)

“If you belonged to the world, the world would treat you with affection and would love you as its own. But because you are not of the world [no longer one with it], but I have chosen (selected) you out of the world, the world hates (detests) you.”

The world hated Jesus. Jesus lived in power of the kingdom of heaven in His heart, every moment that He walked on this earth. In doing so He was saying to everyone who saw Him change water into wine, heal the sick, raise the dead, walk on water, calm the storm, or trust His Father enough to die with the assurance of being brought back to life, that life in the kingdom of His Father was far superior to the life they lived.

Most of the arrogance of that day resented the fact that the way He lived revealed their lives as small in comparison to His, especially the Religious leaders. With every one of His words, and every action that He took, He was saying that there is a far superior life than the one that they were living. He was also inviting those who would listen to live the short term of the life they lived on earth in the Kingdom of God with Him. That was dangerous talk to anyone who wanted to be in charge of the lives of people by their earthly power or status. It was incredibly unusual talk to the common man who was used to bondages from leaders and governments or their own sin. It was astoundingly welcome talk to those who were in such bondage and were crying out to God for freedom in their lives.

That invitation remains in effect to this day. Instead of living as feeble human beings, mesmerized by the boundaries and dictates of a dead and dying world, we are called to enter into the place that Jesus has provided for us in the Kingdom of heaven, even while we still breathe the air of this earth. We are called to walk as He walked, love as He loved, and live as free from the perils of this world as He lived. It is our promise as believers. It is His promise to us as our Lord.

Before the cross, mankind could only see what was in front of them. They could only respond to the events of their lives in a manner in which they had been taught. As far as they knew, only what they could reason with their minds, or touch with their hands was reality. Anything beyond that was never within the scope of their thinking. Even the miraculous intervention of God in past generations was for others, not for them. God's intervention in those generations had deteriorated into religious dogma, something good to study, but outside of the possibility of being pertinent and really applicable to their daily living.

The world hates us because they hated Jesus. We see the dumbing down of today's church by the enemy because he hates who we really could be. Most of those who say that they follow Jesus have little concept of resting in the knowledge of Father God with all of His power and freedoms while walking on this earth is. In all but a few instances, we live mesmerized by the world before us. Whatever its limitations are, we accept. Whatever its policies are, we endure. Whatever its cravings are, we embrace. Whatever its demands may be, we serve. The world is big in our eyes. God has become small to us.

In general, we as Christians have forgotten what Jesus came for many reasons in addition to getting us saved from hell after we die. The thought that He came to show us how to live in the Kingdom of heaven while we live on this earth as He did is as foreign to us as it was to those He first walked with, when the opposite should be true. This world and its ways should be foreign to us once we have eyes to see. He died and rose again so that we, those who have made Him the Lord of our lives and are in covenant with Father God, could rest with Him in the wonder of the Kingdom of heaven as residents and walk as aliens in this world. We are called to be in this world only for Father God's purposes to be accomplished, but not in any way be a part of it.

God, however, in His astounding mercy is heralding those who will hear, to remember how far we have fallen from the life He has intended for us as followers of Jesus Christ. By having us become less and less content with our own powerless form of religion, He is reminding us that the world is not our home. It hasn't been since we gave our lives to the Lord. To live as if we belonged here is a travesty of the highest proportions and a denial of the power of the astounding, eternal work of the cross.

Unless we decide to respond to His call to return to the living example of Jesus, we will remain in a life that has a form of godliness, while denying its power. We will remain indistinct from all other forms of

man-made religious activity, classified by those who consider themselves wise, as fools. In reality, because we have chosen to live as small of a life as we do when so much more is available to us, we are exactly that; we are fools.

Matthew 11:12 (New International Version) From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.

The understanding that our all Powerful God desires for us to live in the fullness of the life of Christ is vitally important to us getting there. We must further understand that we have no ability or power to get there without Him doing all of the work in us. Any other thinking is as foolish as us attempting to form the world as He did.

The continual admission of our incredible inadequacies and our consent to allowing only His power to complete Christ's character in us, so that we can live as He lived while in the world, are delightful partners for destroying all of the false power and threats thrown at us by the other kingdoms. Those threats are designed to keep us frustrated, weary, weak and unbelieving. We have no rest because we have not spent enough time getting to know Who our Father God really is, and what His desires are for us. We have elevated what we see to be more powerful than God and His ability and desire to overcome that fear in us. We need to repent of how small we have made Him, the work of Jesus and the power of His Word. We must ask Him to instill in our hearts how much He fervently desires to love us through our need.

Hebrews 4:9-10 (New International Version) There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; 10) for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his.

Think of this. Why would any of us trust any of the lower kingdoms, kingdoms that hate us, desiring only our demise and separation from Jesus, to supply our true needs? On the other hand, how foolish is it to not trust our loving heavenly Father in everything, for everything, when everything that He has done proves His desire for us to do so.

As a children of God we are to look only to Him for everything. He is to be our only source in all that we do. When we finally settle it in our hearts that He is our source, we will be able to rest.

Begin today. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you how to seek, and rely only on God. Ask Him to teach you to trust His Word that promises He will always be there for you at all times. Ask Him to show you how to rest in the fact that He is not only capable of performing every promise in His Word, but is poised to do so whenever we seek Him.

For thought or discussion:

Is it enough that God loves you even if you are hated by the world

Do you harbor the hate of the world in your heart or can you love as Jesus loved those who hated Him