

Matthew 10:21-22 Opposition to the Gospel and to Bible Truth

Introduction: The apostles were sent out to preach the gospel and to teach Bible truth. They would meet opposition. We are sent out to preach the gospel and to teach Bible truth. We need to know that there will be opposition.

I. The extent of the opposition. Verse 21

- A. The opposition goes beyond a mere rejection of the gospel and it's related Bible truths.
 - 1. A lot of people reject the gospel. (Or some Bible doctrine.)
 - 2. Even some of our own close kin reject the gospel.
- B. The opposition goes beyond slander and petty, harmless deeds of disrespect.
- C. The opposition goes beyond destruction of property.
- D. The opposition goes beyond arrests, public beatings, imprisonment and confiscation of property.
- E. The opposition goes all the way to death.
- F. The opposition goes beyond family ties.
 - 1. In verse 17 Jesus said, "Beware of men."
 - 2. In this verse He said to beware even of your family.
 - 3. Can you imagine a family member leading the opposition?
- G. Hundreds of thousands of Christians have so suffered.
(Read "Foxes Book of Martyrs.")

II. The cause or the source of the opposition. Verse 22a

- A. This severe treatment is not brought on by faults or wrong doing of the Christians.
 - 1. It is not brought on by a misconception on their part of Bible truth.
(Although they are often mistaken on some doctrine.)
 - 2. It is not brought on by misconduct on their part.
(Although they all do wrong and some few are guilty of bad wrongs.)
 - 3. It is not brought on by the Christians mistreatment of the non-Christian.
(The Christian generally tries to do good toward others.)
- B. The opposition is brought on for Christ's sake. Verse 22
 - 1. The non believer is often motivated by Satan and Satan hates Jesus Christ.
(Hates the gospel and hates Bible truth.)
 - 2. He does not hate religion, but he hates true religion.
 - 3. It is no wonder that opponents to truth speak with such hatred of Christians.
(Stems from Satanic hatred of Christ.)
 - 4. It is no wonder that they can be so cruel and vicious. (Satan wages war against Christ.)

III. Opposition, a test of one's faith in Christ. Verse 22b

- A. Not all professed Christians would remain true to Christ under persecution.
 - 1. Some would turn and denounce Christ.
 - 2. This would be an evidence that they never truly believed in Christ.
 - 3. These unbelievers would, upon their death, go to hell along with all other unbelievers.
John 3:18
- B. But some professed Christians would remain true to Christ even under the most severe persecution.
 - 1. They "endure to the end." Verse 22.
 - 2. They endure – not to gain the redemption of their souls – but because they have truly been redeemed.

3. They endure – not trying to get to heaven – but because they already have the assurance that they are going there.
 4. Their endurance is a means of going to heaven, but merely an evidence that they are headed there.
 5. When they die by whatever means (natural death or persecution) they go out of a world of suffering into a world of bliss and glory.
- C. This does not mean that the Christian will always be faithful to Christ in all things.
1. But it does mean that he will not be driven away by persecution;
 2. When he is unfaithful, it will be because of some temptation and some weakness on his own part.
 3. But persecution only makes him closer to Christ; it will not drive him away.

Conclusion:

1. Some of you are unsaved. If you had already died, you would already be burning in hell. But God has given you another chance to be saved.
2. Some of you have already trusted Jesus and been saved, but you have never made a public profession to give Jesus the honor and you have not followed Him in baptism or joined a New Testament church. He would have you to do so now.
3. Some of you are saved and baptized and you have come to understand that God would have you to move your membership.
4. All of you who are saved should witness of Jesus Christ to the unsaved.
5. Someone may be called of God to preach, but you have never publicly acknowledged it.

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