

How is it that Jesus says the world hates Christians; but, the world hates those in other religions, too?

Those who adhere to false religions (Jas 1:26) or no religion (Ps 14:1) may be mistreated. Ours is a fallen world (Gen. 3:24); so, people are treated badly in general. Christians; however, are mistreated because the Jesus in them (Ro 8:11) is offensive to the unredeemed (Pr 19:3, Ro 8:7).

Jesus said:

If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. Jn 15:18–21

Believers may have difficulties. In fact, *greater* difficulty may come after one is justified (1 Tim. 3:16) and sanctified (Rom. 15:16; 2 Thess. 2:13) in the Lord. His enemies may be in his own home.

Jesus said:

Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a man's enemies will be those of his own household. Mt 10:34–36

Adrain Rogers said, "You can build on him (1 Cor. 10:4) or stumble on him (1 Pet. 2:8). He'll be a stepping stone (Ps 18:2) or stumbling stone (1 Cor 1:23, Luke 20:18)." There is no shortage of hatred in the world for men in general; but most especially—for Christians.

The apostle Paul wrote:

In the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 2 Ti 3:1b–7

The Christian must stand strong during the falling away. After said apostasy, the restrainer will be removed (e.g. the Holy Spirit and the church will depart from the world in the rapture). After the restrainer is removed, the man of sin will be revealed and after the man of sin is revealed, the day of the Lord will come (2 Thess 2).

Paul said:

- For that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first (v. 3).
- He who now [restraineth] will [restrain], until He be taken out of the way (v. 7).

- And then the Wicked One be revealed (v. 8).¹

Though it is bad news that men of good will are mistreated, it is good news that the Lord will come to set things straight (Re 22:20).

¹ Missler, Chuck. Revelation Series. Koinonia House. 3 Mar 2014:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=naW0vk7dZOg&list=PL0osYxTc0WTN5FzBYOdCJCY8PGXhX3wH&index=1>