

November 30, 2025

Closing prayer: **Mernie Ray**

- Happy birthday to **Chrishawn Thompson** (December 1st)!
- “Precept Upon Precept” is a YouTube channel with many sermons/articles from faithful brethren (www.youtube.com/@preceptuponprecept8495)

Contribution – \$1460

There is no doubt as to where Jesus' affections lay. While He had compassion on the multitudes of lost humanity and always sought their good (Matthew 9:36), His loyalty was to the Father and to the truth (John 8:28-29). The Pharisees and

Herodians were trying to deceive Christ through flattery, but certainly spoke truth when they said, *“Neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men”* (Matthew 22:16).

Yet in the religious world, and even in the Lord’s church, there is an increasing regard for the persons of men over the will of God. Churches’ efforts are directed toward erecting large gymnasiums and providing social functions to attract people, rather than toward pricking sin-laden hearts with the truth. Churches poll their neighborhoods as to what they would like in a church, and give them what they want, regardless of whether it is according to truth. Contrast this approach with that of our Lord, Who apparently never read Rick Warren’s *Purpose-Driven Church* or other such drivel intended to bend the church of the Lord to the will of the world.

If our affections lie with the Lord, pleasing men cannot be our primary goal. As Jesus told the highly-esteemed Pharisees, *“Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God”* (Luke 16:15). If we are seeking to please men, it will compromise our purity and truthfulness (1 Thessalonians 2:3-6). As Jesus warned, *“Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets”* (Luke 6:26).

Are we *“strangers and pilgrims”* in the world? (Hebrews 11:13; 1 Peter 2:11). Those who are not at home in the true church will be at home in the world. But those who are not at home in the world will be at home in the true church—and in heaven. Do we savor the things of God or of men? (Matthew 16:23). That is, do we insist upon the hard truth, or do we rather choose the easy way, avoiding persecution and the reproach of men? (compare with 4:8-9). To His apostles Jesus gave this warning and assurance which should resound for us today: *“And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved”* (10:22).

Conclusion

Jesus gave His brothers a memorable rebuke when He told them, *“The world cannot hate you.”* However, this was directly related to His brothers’ lack of faith in Him. After His resurrection, at least some of them believed in Him (Acts 1:14; James 1:1; Jude 1). Was the world later able to hate Jesus’

brothers? Read the book of Jude! Its firm stand against sin and false doctrine could never be palatable to the world. And according to Josephus, Jesus’ brother James was stoned to death. The world could not hate them when they lacked faith, but that certainly changed once they gained faith. If the world cannot hate you, it could be related to your lack of faith.

The hatred of the world is not a goal for which one should ever seek. Neither God the Father nor Jesus ever desired to be hated by the world, but by reproving its sin, the world’s hatred was assured. But if your affections lie with the Lord in a life of obedience to Him, the world’s hatred is nothing to fear, as the Lord’s favor is assured. As He said, *“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you”* (John 15:18).

ENDNOTE

¹“Boulomai,” in Bauer, Danker, Arndt, and Gingrich, A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature, 3rd ed. (Chicago: Univ. Of Chicago Press, 2000), p. 182.

Lee Moses

What Must I Do to Be Saved?

- HEAR THE WORD**
Romans 10:17 – “So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.”
- BELIEVE IN JESUS**
John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” **John 8:24** – “...if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”
- REPENT OF YOUR SINS**
Luke 13:3–“...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” **Acts 17:30**–“And the times of this ignorance God overlooked, but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent.” **2 Corinthians 7:10**–“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.”
- CONFESS THAT JESUS IS LORD**
Romans 10:9-10–“if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” (Also **Matthew 10:32-33**; see **Acts 8:37** for an example.)
- BE BAPTIZED FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF YOUR SINS**
Mark 16:16–“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved”; **Acts 2:38**–“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...”; **Acts 22:16**–“Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord”; **1 Peter 3:21**–“...baptism doth also now save us...”
- REMAIN FAITHFUL**
1 Corinthians 15:58–“Therefore...be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord”; **Colossians 1:23**–“...if ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard”; **Revelation 2:10**–“Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”