

# L15: The Suffering Ambassador - John 15:17-23

## Introduction:

- False Gospels
- The Definition of the Ambassador
  - The Message of the Ambassador
  - The Characteristics of the Ambassador

## Preview:

- The Cost of Ambassadorship
  - Suffering
  - Glory
- The Consolation of Christ
- The Armour of God

## Sermon:

**{John 15:17-23}** These things I command you, that ye love one another. {18} If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. {19} If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. {20} Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. {21} But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me. {22} If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin. {23} He that hateth me hateth my Father also.

- Ambassadorship (a quick review)
  - Speak the message
  - Live the message
  - **John 15:4-5** - "abide in me, and I in you."
    - :17-23
  - **2 Corinthians 4:1-4 (:2)**
    - "not walking in craftiness"
    - "nor handling the word of God deceitfully"
    - "but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God."
      - See & Hear
  - **2 Corinthians 5:9**
    - :14-16
    - 6:3-10
  - **Ephesians 4:17-24** - ungodly & godly doctrine to mind to conduct

- :25 - 32 - conduct the doctrine leads to
- **2 Timothy 3:1-17**
  - Conduct (:1-6)
  - Learning (:7-9)
  - Paul's Doctrine (:10)
  - Paul's Conduct (:10-11)
    - Summary (:12-13)
  - The Word of God is the distinguishing difference (:14-4:4)
- **John 15:20** - "Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you;"
  - There will be sufferings that follow those that share the good news of Christ and the Father
    - Acts 9:1ff
    - 1 Peter 1:6-12
    - 2 Corinthians 1:3-5
  - **1 Corinthians 4:8-13**
- **2 Corinthians 4:7-18**
  - **:7-12 - The ambassador is given the honor to bear both "the dying and life of the Lord Jesus"**
    - The dying is - the sufferings of Christ
    - They life is - the life giving consolation of Christ that endures the sufferings
      - The life of Christ, resurrected life working in the midst sufferings producing an effect of consolation & endurance.
  - **:13 - "spirit of faith" (walk by faith)**
    - Ps. 116:1-13 (:10)
  - **:14 - "knowing that He which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus..."**
    - What the Psalmist believed (:9) about resurrection was God's merciful supplication of deliverance in the face of afflictions.
    - Paul's point how much more - knowing that God raised Christ from the dead.
  - **:15 - "For all things are for your sakes"**
    - Harkens back to Romans 8 - "all things work together for good"
    - "for your sakes" - purpose of obtaining
    - "redound to the glory of God" -
  - **:16 - "for which cause"**
    - "the glory of God"
      - The glory God receives in us preaching Christ as an ambassador and suffering for it
    - **"outward man perish"** - the glory isn't in the outward man

▪ **"inward man renewed day by day"** - the result of resurrection

- The result of you believing the gospel
- The result of the Spirit of God quickening your inward man
- Renewed day by day
  - Just as day by day the outward man perishes and with weakness it will succumb to death, the inward man will never die.
  - The inward man will separate from the outward man = physical death, but
  - The inward man will never be separated from God = spiritual death, but spiritual life
  - Thus our "inward man is renewed day by day"
  - As your inner man is renewed day by day we by the consolation of Christ and the mercies of God are to endure in our minds, that is, to continue without fainting.

○ :17 - **"for our light affliction, which is but for a moment"**

▪ Implications of chapter 4

1. In view of our inward man is renewed day by day and we will never be separated from God, the affliction is light and for a moment.
2. Worketh for a us glory (for our sakes as it redounds to God's glory)
3. Far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory

▪ ***The excellency of God's power manifests in the believer, in the ambassador in suffering with a life of Christ that is "not distressed", "not in despair", "not forsaken", "not destroyed".***

- It effectual in the enduring of the sufferings
- This excellency of God's power is by virtue of the resurrection of Christ and its fruits of knowledge implanted in the believer and looked upon by the ambassador
- Thus, this power can be manifest to unbelievers when they produce the sufferings from us sharing the gospel.
- This power to God is greater or more excellent than what He used when they didn't realize all the implications of the resurrection, of which power He manifest in signs, wonders, and miracles.
  - These signs, wonders, and miracles set forth a spectacle to be seen, but no replaced with the spectacle of suffering ambassadors that endure and faint not as they behold the glory of God in Christ.

• **Philippians 1:3-8, 12-23, 27-30**

## **The Consolation of Christ**

- 2 Corinthians 1:3-7
  - Unseen glory that works a patient endurance (strength & might), peace & comfort that leads to joy
  - Rom. 15:4-5, 13
  - 2 Cor. 4:18, 5:7
  - Php. 2:1
  - Col. 1:11

## **Armour of God**

- The armour of God provides for the defense, strength, and might in all areas of the Christian life one of which is when we function as an ambassador for Christ.
- The armour of God enables us to not faint, but to stand rather, provides us endurance, and empowers us to fight with God.
- **Ephesians 6:10-20**
  1. Loins girt about with truth
  2. Breastplate of righteousness
  3. Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace
  4. Shield of faith
    - i. Quench all the fiery darts of the wicked
  5. Helmet of salvation
  6. Sword of the Spirit
    - i. The Word of God
    - ii. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit
- :19 - Pray for Paul
  - Open mouth boldly
  - Make known the mystery of the gospel
  - Ought to speak

## **Conclusion:**

- The ambassador for Christ is not only given the privilege to preach the gospel, beseech others to be reconciled to God, but it is also given to him/her to:
  - Suffer for His sake - benefit of bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus
  - Believe on Him - benefit from the life of Christ in the midst of those sufferings