

MESSAGE 4: LIFE WITHOUT GOD TITUS 03:03

Introduction

This is a terrible picture of what life is like without God. Note that we who are believers were living a life just like what is described here before we accepted Christ. This does not necessarily mean that we were actively involved in every sin included in the list, but we are all guilty of at least some of these sins. And being guilty, we stand before God imperfect and short of His glory. Therefore, we need to be saved through the Lord Jesus Christ. Oliver Greene has an excellent introduction to this verse that merits quoting in its entirety:

“We who are Christians now, once conformed to this picture of wickedness. (The ‘we’ also includes Paul and Titus.) The verse does not necessarily mean that every believer has been guilty of all the things pointed out here. Some things are mentioned that no doubt Paul was not guilty of before his conversion; but he is simply pointing out to Titus that he should preach to the people in the churches... that they should live holy lives, and especially manifest a spirit of humility, order, peace, kindness and due subordination to local authorities. Titus should point out to the believers that they were formerly disorderly, wicked, sensual — sinners by nature; but having heard the Gospel, through the power of the Gospel they had been saved from these things by the grace of God, and now they were new creations in Christ Jesus and by their daily practices should prove to unbelievers that they have had a change of heart.

The minister of the Gospel is never to be proud or arrogant. He is to point unbelievers to Christ — not to his own righteousness or ability to live above the world. The minister is to remember that before his conversion he was in the same condition as the unbeliever to whom he now preaches. The minister is not to forget that he is not superior to others because of his ability, but because of the grace of God and the power of God. The minister is to exhort the wicked to repent. Remembering his own life of sin and wickedness will help him to fervently preach the grace of God which worked a miracle in his own heart; and having had a miracle of grace performed in his own heart, he knows what the grace of God can do for all who will receive it” (The Epistles of Paul the Apostle to Timothy and Titus, p. 472f).

The subject of the verse and of this study is: life without God.

- I. Man is foolish, disobedient and deceived (v. 3).
 - II. Man is a slave of passions (lust) and pleasure (v. 3).
 - III. Man lives in malice and envy (v. 3).
 - IV. Man is hateful and hated (v. 3).
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I. Titus 03: 03 Foolish, Disobedient and Deceived Man

Man is foolish, disobedient, and deceived (v. 3) (see *Foolish*, Tit. 3:3; *Disobedient*, Tit. 3:3; and *Deceived*, Tit. 3:3).

TITUS 03: 03 THE FOOLISH AND UNWISE

At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. Titus 03:03

A person without God is “foolish” (*anoetoi*). The word means to be thoughtless, dull, senseless and without understanding in spiritual matters; to be ignorant of God and unwise in dealing with God.

Note that men sometimes call each other *fools*, using the word as a term of reproach. But believers are forbidden to call other persons fools; God wants no person reproached. But this is not the way the word is being used in the present passage. Scripture is simply saying that a person who denies, ignores or neglects God is acting foolishly, very unwisely.

- => He is thoughtless: not applying his thoughts to God; not thinking through the truth about God.
- => He is dull: not being sharp in his thoughts about God. He is being sleepy-minded, slow and sluggish toward God.
- => He is senseless: not using good common sense about God. He is acting contrary to good common sense. He is deficient in his thoughts about God.
- => He is without understanding: he does not grasp or comprehend God; he does not have the right ideas or thoughts about God.
- => He is ignorant of God: he does not know God. He has not learned God — has not looked at, thought about, studied, nor met, walked and fellowshiped with God.
- => He is unwise: he is acting contrary to wisdom; he is acting dangerously and foolishly.

Scripture is as clear as it can be: the person who walks upon earth without God is foolish. And remember: we were one time foolish — all of us — every believer. We walked upon earth most unwisely, thinking little if any about God, ignoring and neglecting Him; and some of us even denied Him.

But thanks be to God our Saviour, He has saved us, and He will save any person no matter how foolish and ignorant of God he is. No matter how foolish and far away from God a person is, God will save him if he will just call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Psa 49:13 *This is the fate of those who trust in themselves, and of their followers, who approve their sayings.*

Psa 53:1 *The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, and their ways are vile; there is no one who does good.*

Prov 14:8-9 *The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception. Fools mock at making amends for sin, but goodwill is found among the upright.*

Prov 28:26 *He who trusts in himself is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe.*

Jer 17:11 *Like a partridge that hatches eggs it did not lay is the man who gains riches by unjust means. When his life is half gone, they will desert him, and in the end he will prove to be a fool.*

Luke 11:39-40 *Then the Lord said to him, “Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also?”*

Luke 12:20-21 *“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’ This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.”*

Rom 1:20-22 *For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools.*

Eph 5:15 *Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise. □*

TITUS 03: 03 THE DISOBEDIENT

A person without God is “disobedient” (apeitheis). The word means to refuse to obey by not doing what one should; to rebel against and to reject instruction; to refuse to be persuaded; to be obstinate against authority. Note a most significant fact: the charge is that man is disobedient in general; that is, he disobeys all authority:

=> He disobeys parents, civil authorities, civil laws and the natural laws of nature — polluting and misusing everything about him.

=> He disobeys the laws of personal duty as he walks day by day at home, in the workplace and throughout his community.

=> Most tragic of all, in fact, the cause of all other disobedience, is that he disobeys God and His Word, the very Person who can save him and who has laid down the commandment of life for man.

Man just comes short, disobeying all the laws and duties of life — not all the time, but sometimes. By nature, when a person wants something that is forbidden, he is drawn to go after it despite the fact that it is wrong and disobedient. He is simply drawn to disobey the law of God or the law of the land and the restriction of the parent.

The point is this: all of us — every believer and every unbeliever — have walked in disobedience. We have all disobeyed all authority; we have been lawless and transgressed all authority ranging from parents over to God. We have come short — far short — of what we should have done.

But thanks be to God our Saviour, for He has provided the way for us to be forgiven. Our guilt and punishment for having broken the law of God and of man can be completely removed from us. How? Through our Lord Jesus Christ. No matter how disobedient we have been — no matter how lawless we have been — God our Saviour will forgive our transgressions. He will forgive them if we genuinely believe that His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, paid the punishment of our transgression when He died upon the cross.

Mat 7:24-27 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

Rom 1:28, 30 Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.... slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents.

Eph 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient.

2 Th 1:7-8 And give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

1 Tim 1:9 We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers.

Heb 2:2-3 *For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him.*

1 John 2:17 *The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever. □*

TITUS 03: 03 THE DECEIVED

A person without God is “deceived” (planomenoi). The word means to be misled and led astray. It means to be seduced away from God and the truth and away from what is right. Man is so easily led astray that Scripture pictures him as a wandering and lost sheep. He is a sheep that must be sought after, found and saved or else he will be destroyed by the wilderness of the world — destroyed because he was deceived and led away from the eternal pasture of God. Scripture teaches that man is seduced and led astray by several things.

⇒ Man is seduced and led astray by immoral and seductive persons.

Rom 3:13 *“Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit.” “The poison of vipers is on their lips.”*

Rom 16:17-18 *I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.*

Eph 5:3-6 *But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person — such a man is an idolater — has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient.*

2 Tim 3:13 *While evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.*

1 John 3:7 *Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.*

Jer 9:5 *Friend deceives friend, and no one speaks the truth. They have taught their tongues to lie; they weary themselves with sinning.*

Micah 6:12 *Her rich men are violent; her people are liars and their tongues speak deceitfully.*

=> Man is seduced and led astray by false teaching and false systems of religion.

***Mat 24:4-5** Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many."*

***2 Cor 11:13-15** For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.*

***Eph 4:14** Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.*

***2 Th 2:3** Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.*

***1 Tim 4:1-2** The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.*

***2 Tim 2:16-17** Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus.*

***2 Tim 3:5-7** Having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them. They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth.*

***Titus 1:10-11** For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group. They must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach - and that for the sake of dishonest gain.*

***2 John 1:7** Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.*

=> Man is seduced and led astray by self.

***1 Cor 6:9-10** Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.*

Gal 6:3 *If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.*

Gal 6:7-8 *Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.*

James 1:22 *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.*

James 1:26 *If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.*

1 John 1:8 *If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.*

Rev 3:16-17 *So, because you are lukewarm — neither hot nor cold — I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.*

Psa 36:2 *For in his own eyes he flatters himself too much to detect or hate his sin.*

Jer 17:9 *The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?*

=> Man is seduced and led astray by Satan.

John 8:44 *"You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."*

2 Cor 4:4 *The god of this age has blinded [deceived] the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

2 Cor 11:13-14 *For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.*

2 Th 2:9-10 *The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.*

1 Tim 2:14 *And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.*

=> Man is seduced and led astray by evil, immoral and unjust governments and states.

Rev 18:23 *The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The voice of bridegroom [Christ] and bride [the church] will never be heard in you again [Babylon, the symbol of the godless city or government]. Your merchants were the world's great men. By your magic spell all the nations were led astray.*

Nahum 3:1 *Woe to the city of blood, full of lies, full of plunder, never without victims!*

=> Man is seduced and led astray by sin.

Rom 7:11 *For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death.*

Eph 4:22 *You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires.*

Heb 3:13 *But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.*

Remember the point of this verse: once we were all deceived. All of us had been led astray from God. But thanks be to God our Saviour. He has found us and saved us, and He will find and save any person who will turn toward Him and call out for Him. God our Saviour is searching for every person, not willing that any should perish. In fact, God is with the person at all times. All the person has to do is turn to God and call upon Him, and God will save him. □

II. **Titus 03:03** *Man Enslaved by Passions*

A person without God is enslaved by all sorts of passions and pleasures.

=> The word “passions” (epithumiais) means passionate cravings, desires, urges and lusts; it means to have a yearning passion for.

=> The word “pleasures” (hedonais) can mean either good or bad pleasures. In the present context it means bad pleasures, desiring and indulging in worldly amusements and worldly delights.

Every person knows what it is to have the sinful nature lusting after the pleasures and delights of this world, to have it yearning and yearning to lay hold of the pleasures and delights...

- of having more and more
- of partying
- of lusting
- of intoxicating drugs
- of having power
- of exercising authority
- of indulging in food
- of having recognition
- of having money
- of owning property
- of having possessions
- of getting attention
- of attaining position
- of displaying fashion

Man is enslaved by the things of the world, things that damage his body — that make him greedy and selfish — that destroy his spirit and doom him to destruction.

But thanks be to God our Saviour. He has saved us and delivered us from the enslavements of this world, the enslavements of lust and pleasure that destroy our bodies and souls. The wonderful news is that any person can be delivered from the destructive lusts and pleasures of this world. How? Through our Lord Jesus Christ. If a person will turn away from the destructive lusts and pleasures and turn to Christ, God will deliver him. God will give him the power to conquer the passions or lusts and enslavements of this world.

Luke 8:14 *“The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.”*

Luke 12:19-20 *And I’ll say to myself, ‘You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’*

1 Tim 5:6 *But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives.*

2 Tim 3:1-2, 4 *But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy....treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.*

Titus 3:3 *At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.*

James 5:5 *You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.*

Mat 5:28 *“But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”*

Rom 1:24 *Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.*

Rom 1:27 *In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.*

1 Pet 4:3 *For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do — living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry.*

Job 24:15-16 *The eye of the adulterer watches for dusk; he thinks, ‘No eye will see me, and he keeps his face concealed. In the dark, men break into houses, but by day they shut themselves in; they want nothing to do with the light.’*

III. *Titus 03:03 Men Living in Malice and Envy*

Man lives in malice and envy (v. 3) (see *Malice*, Tit. 3:3; *Envy*, Tit. 3:3).

TITUS 03:03 MALICE

At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. Titus 03:03

A person without God lives in malice (kakia). The word means evil disposition or evil in nature. It is a spirit full of evil and malice and injury, a character that is as evil as it can be. It is a person who always looks for the worst in other people and always passes on the worst about them. It is the person who so often ruins other people both in reputation and body and in mind and spirit. It is a person so full of evil that he is always ruining others either by word or violence. There are some people who would not actively strike and harm a person, but everyone has experienced feelings against another person. The feelings arise from some argument or difference within the family, with a neighbour, or at work, school or play. And the feelings were strong, so strong that one could care less if something bad happened to the person. And most people have even had feelings...

- that wished something bad upon others.
- that downgraded and tore down others.

Tragically, these feelings even occur within families. People hold malice within their hearts; they could care less if something bad happened to others. But thanks be to God our Saviour. He has provided forgiveness for this terrible sin — both forgiveness and deliverance. And He will forgive and deliver any person who turns away from his malice and bitterness against others and turns to Him.

1 Cor 14:20 Brothers, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults.

Eph 4:31-32 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Col 3:8 But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

1 Pet 2:1-3 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. □

TITUS 03:03 ENVY

A person without God lives in envy (phthonoi). The word means that a person covets what someone else has, covets it so much that he wants it even if it means that it has to be taken away from the other person. He may even wish that the other person did not have it or had not received it. We may look at people and envy their...

- money
- clothes
- position
- social status
- looks
- recognition
- possessions
- authority
- popularity

The results of envy are terrible; envy takes a terrible toll upon the life and body of a person.

=> A person who envies does not have peace or happiness. He is dissatisfied with what he is and has, and is always wanting more and more of what others have.

=> In addition to this, envy often drives a person into crime and lawlessness in order to get what he craves.

=> On top of this, envy often leads to physical problems such as migraine headaches, high blood pressure and ulcers.

=> Envy also causes emotional problems ranging from mild neurosis of depression to psychotic behaviour.

But thanks to be to God our Saviour. He saves and delivers us from envy. Through Christ He gives us life, real life, and He satisfies our hearts and lives with eternal pleasures (Psa. 16:11).

Prov 14:30 *A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.*

Prov 23:17 *Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the Lord.*

Prov 24:1 *Do not envy wicked men, do not desire their company.*

Rom 13:13 *Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.*

1 Cor 13:4 *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.*

Gal 5:26 *Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. □*

IV. Titus 03:03 *Hateful and Hated Man*

Man is hateful and hated (v. 3) (see *Hate*, Tit. 3:3; and *Hate*, Tit. 3:3).

TITUS 03:03 HATE

A person without God is hateful; that is, he is worthy of being hated (stugetoi). This is the only time this terrible word is used in the Bible. It means to be hated — to be worthy of being hated and counted as detestable. This is strong language, to think that we are worthy of being hated. What does this mean?

- => It means the selfish, greedy, covetous nature of man is worthy of being hated — the nature that lies, steals, cheats, banks and hoards while millions of others are dying from hunger, thirst, disease, cold, heat, sin, evil and from the lack of the gospel which could save the whole world.
- => It means the carnal and immoral nature of man is worthy of hatred — the nature that commits fornication and adultery, destroying homes and bodies through broken trusts and disease and emotional and mental traumas — from which many never recover.

The list could go on and on, but the point is clear: the behaviour of man is very often worthy of being hated. But thanks be to God, for He has saved and transformed our hateful nature. He has taken our unloving nature and made new men out of us. And He will do it for any person who turns from living a selfish and worldly life and turns to Christ. God will transform any person who trusts and follows His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

***Luke 16:14-15** The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. He said to them, “You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, [earthly possessions, things] but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God’s sight.”*

***Deu 25:16** For the Lord your God detests [extremely hated and disgusting] anyone who does these things, anyone who deals dishonestly.*

***2 Sam 11:27** After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done [adultery] displeased the Lord.*

***Psa 5:4** You are not a God who takes pleasure in evil; with you the wicked cannot dwell.*

***Psa 11:5** The Lord examines the righteous, but the wicked and those who love violence his soul hates.*

***Prov 6:16-19** There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.*

Zec 8:17 “Do not plot evil against your neighbour, and do not love to swear falsely. I hate all this,” declares the Lord. □

TITUS 03:03 HATE

A person without God is the citizen of a world of hate, a world in which people hate one another — a tragic and terrible fact, but a fact nevertheless.

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|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| => Race hates race | => Nation hates nation |
| => Employees hate employers | => Brothers hate brothers |
| => Wives hate husbands | => Children hate parents |

No matter the race, colour, creed, class, position or standing — hate fills the human heart and consumes both man and his world. The result is the worst imaginable world, a world that is ever so beautiful yet is defiled by a human nature and behaviour that defies all human explanation — a human nature that chooses to live in a world of...

- | | | | |
|------------|-------------|------------|-----------|
| • war | • rape | • murder | • theft |
| • abuse | • argument | • fighting | • lying |
| • division | • deception | • divorce | • slavery |

But thanks be to God our Saviour. He has saved us and provided an escape for us through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. We can be delivered from the hatred of the world and receive a life of love, joy and peace — a life that will go on and on forever.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

John 5:24 “I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.”

1 John 2:9 Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness.

1 John 3:15 Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.

Lev 19:17 “Do not hate your brother in your heart. Rebuke your neighbour frankly so you will not share in his guilt.”

Prov 10:12 Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrongs.

Prov 15:17 Better a meal of vegetables where there is love than a fattened calf with hatred. □