

The 2021 World Watch List will help you understand the reality of Christian persecution around the world.

Visit OpenDoorsUSA.org/WWL to download the booklet and to read more.

“God isn’t looking for people of great faith, but for individuals ready to follow Him.” — Hudson Taylor

“Missionaries are very human folks, just doing what they are asked. Simply a bunch of nobodies trying to exalt Somebody.” — Jim Elliot

“It was strictly forbidden to preach to other prisoners. It was understood that whoever was caught doing this received a severe beating. A number of us decided to pay the price for the privilege of preaching, so we accepted their (the communists’) terms. It was a deal; we preached and they beat us. We were happy preaching. They were happy beating us. So everyone was happy.” — Richard Wurmbrand

“If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.” — C.T. Studd

“Here I am, send me; send me to the ends of the earth; send me to the rough, the savage pagans of the wilderness; send me from all that is called comfort on earth; send me even to death itself, if it be but in Thy service, and to promote Thy Kingdom.” — David Brainerd

“Oh, that I could spend every moment of my life to God’s glory!” — David Brainerd

“I cannot tell you what joy it gave me to bring the first soul to the Lord Jesus Christ. I have tasted almost all the pleasures that this world can give. I do not suppose there is one that I have not experienced, but I can tell you that those pleasures were as nothing compared to the joy that the saving of that one soul gave me.” — C.T. Studd

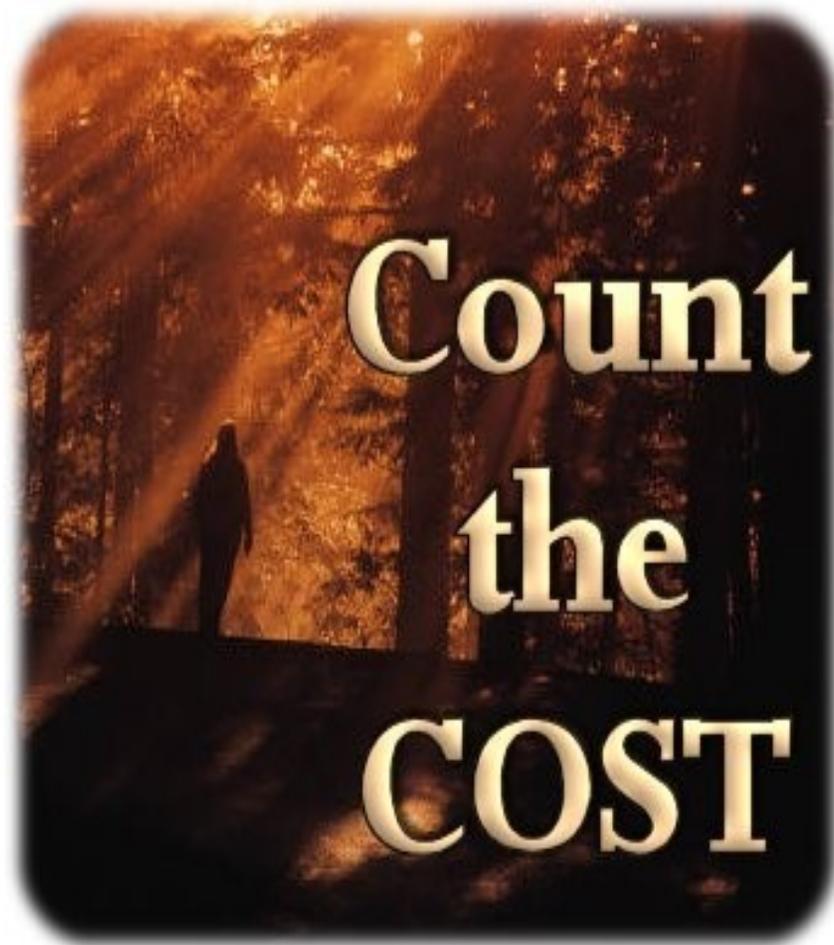
“All my desire was the conversion of the heathen... I declare, now I am dying, I would not have spent my life otherwise for the whole world.” — David Brainerd



April 18, 2021

10:30 A.M.

Counting the Cost



Order of Service

Announcements

Welcome

Preparation for Worship

-----God's Greatness-----

Call to Worship

Hymns of Adoration

"Great Things" Myrin/Wickham

"How Great is Our God". Tomlin/Reeves/Cash

Prayer of Invocation

Affirmation of Faith: The Nicene Creed

Song of Praise: "We Believe". Hooper/Fike/Ryan

Children are dismissed to Sunday School

----- God's Renewal-----

Scripture Warning

Public Confession

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort: Romans 5:17

Song of Renewal

"May the Words of My Mouth". Hughes/Hill

-----God's Grace-----

Scripture Reading: John 15:17-16:4

Prayer

The 2021 World Watch List

The Sermon

"Counting the Cost"

Words of Institution

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Hymn: "All I Have is Christ". Jordan Kauflin

Prayer of Approach

-----God's Blessing-----

Parting Hymn: "I Will Follow". Tomlin/Ingram/Morgan

Benediction

God's Gracious Provision 4/11/2021

Attendance: 53

Offering: \$19,000.37

Your offering may be place in the box at the Welcome Table.

Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me; but you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning" (15:26, 27).

Christians must not think that Jesus Christ has left them in this world for no other purpose than to endure hatred.

B. Christians must expect to bear witness in a world characterized by hatred, Jesus presses on toward a still darker picture: sometimes crude and cruel violence will be directed at his followers.

First, terrible persecution is inevitable.

John 16:2 (ESV)

² *They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God.*

Second, some of the worst persecutions will be done in the name of God, even though God remains unknown to the persecutors. "A time is coming," Jesus warns, "when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God. They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me" (16:2b-3).

Thirdly and most importantly Jesus tells his disciples these things not to frighten them off but to enable them to stand. "All this I have told you so that you will not go astray" (16:1), Because Jesus has carefully prepared his church, however, it usually transpires that "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." "I have told you this," Jesus adds, "so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you. I did not tell you this at first because I was with you" (16:4).

The way of the cross is the Savior's way.

Those who claim all the blessings of the new heaven and the new earth in the present time frame have not come to grips with New Testament eschatology.

In Closing

To know Jesus is to have eternal life; and this is worth everything. In ultimate terms, the acclaim of the world is worth nothing. That is why the dark brush strokes of this passage, 15:17-16:4, far from fostering gloom and defeat, engender instead holy courage and spiritual resolve. Meditation on these verses forges men and women of God with vision and a stamina whose roots reach into eternity. things so we will not go astray.²

¹Carson, D. A. (1988). *The Farewell Discourse and Final Prayer of Jesus: An Exposition of John 14-17* (p. 127). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.

²Carson, D. A. (1988). *The Farewell Discourse and Final Prayer of Jesus: An Exposition of John 14-17* (pp. 131-132). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.

Should any servant question by what principle he should be made to suffer, the answer is the same: No servant is greater than his master. If any would-be servant of Jesus thinks it his right to avoid opposition and even persecution, he is profoundly lacking in humility. He fails to see his proper place in relation to the Master.

D. The world hates because its sin is exposed. *“If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now, however, they have no excuse for their sin. . . . If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father” (15:22, 24).*

Ever since the fall, the world has been sinning against God. But not until the coming of Jesus Christ, the perfect revelation of God, did the world ever sin against such light. “This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed” (3:19, 20).

To be chosen out of the world by Christ brings the scorn of the world; for the world cannot bear to have its sins exposed.

E. The world hates because it does not know the Father, nor recognize the revelation of the Father in the Son. *“They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me. . . . He who hates me hates my Father as well. . . . But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. . . . They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me” (15:21, 23, 24b; 16:3).*

The real ground of the world’s malicious opposition lies in its ignorance of both the Father and the Son.

F. The world hates for no good reason; yet even this unreasonable hatred falls within the purview of the sovereignty of God. Jesus speaks of the world’s hatred in these terms: *“But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: ‘They hated me without reason’ ” (15:25).*

II. Christians must expect to serve as witnesses in this hating world, joining with the Counselor in this work.

A. Today we who are Christians bear a similar responsibility to bear witness to Jesus in a world often characterized by hatred toward Jesus. We must expect to serve as witnesses in this world.

“When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the

Upcoming Events

TONIGHT 6:15-7:15 P.M. House of Prayer
GCC Prayer Gathering for youth and adults
1300 High Street, Pottstown, PA

Wednesday, April 21 6:30 P.M. Young Adults meet for Bible Study at the Deicherts

Thursday, April 22 7:00 P.M. Tactics Small Group meets at the home of Karl and Cindy Yorgey

Friday, April 23 7:00 P.M. Sanctity of Life Concert presented by Genesis Women’s Clinic at Berean Bible Church

Saturday, May 15 8:00 A.M. Men’s Breakfast at the home of Pastor Rick and Barb. Bring a friend.

Saturday, June 5 6:00 P.M. Prayer Dinner at the home of Pastor Rick and Barb. The event will be largely outdoors so if it rains we will use an alternate rain date.

Everyone is invited to join with the elders in prayer every Sunday from 9:30-10:00 in the back of the gym.

David and Mindy Nelson

While our US leadership has not been able to travel for onsite visits over the last year, we have been meeting with the CCI team every month. Over the last five weeks, we have been meeting with country directors and missionaries from India, Nepal, Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, the Philippines, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand and the USA.

Please Pray that every meeting will bare fruit.

Tim and Holly Howden

Pray that they will soon be fully supported financially.



Prayer/Praise.April 18, 2021

- Pray for Rhonda Clark's father, Donald Mace, who was just diagnosed with a serious illness. Treatments will be starting soon. Please send cards of encouragement to the following address: 107 Creamery Lane, Bally, PA 19503.
- Pray for Dawn Fleetman as she began her first week of physical therapy. Pray for healing and a return to work when she is able.
- Pray for the uncle of Brian Cummings, who had two back injections to relieve pain. Pray for God's healing from the back pain.
- Pray for Denny Bartchak, friend of Barb Knarr. Pray for a successful cancer surgery on his bladder on May 20.
- Pray that God reveals Himself to Koreen's friend, Amanda and her husband, John. Amanda's father is dying. Pray for support from John and peace and God's presence for the situation and for the father who does not know the Lord.
- Pray for Ashley, the niece of Lisa Frame's friend, Denise. She had her first chemotherapy treatment. Pray for continued healing and that Ashley can know the Lord.
- Praise that Baby Cypress' surgery went well. Pray that Christopher gets the help he needs, and that God would get hold of his heart.
- Praise that Koreen's dad's pacemaker surgery was successful. Pray for Gwen as she cares for their dad at home.
- Praise that Debbie Breyer, friend of Donna Jenkins, is home.
- Pray for Koreen Mace's brother-in-law, Jim, that God will speak to his heart and for salvation and healing for Jim.
- Pray for Tony Conte, the father of Mandi Yensan's friend, Christine, who is in the ICU. He has congestive heart failure. Pray for peace for Christine and her family knowing that God is holding her father in His Hands.
- Pray for healing for Jill Aument's sister, Gail. She is having muscle spasms and is not experiencing any relief from her back procedure.
- Pray for Tracy Spencer, niece of Donna Jenkins. Tracy is pregnant and on bed rest with her first baby, and there are issues with the baby's lungs. Pray for continued wisdom for her doctors, continued healing for the baby, and God's strength for Tracy, Justin, and their baby.
- Pray for Paul Maloney, brother of Barb Schultz, who is a resident at Pennsburg Manor. He is trying to regain the strength in his legs.
- Pray for Donna Plowfield's son-in-law, David, who is seeking employment.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker, mother of Renee Schumaker. Justine started chemotherapy treatment.
- Pray for Jeremiah Mace, who is in a 9-month internship program. Pray for continued healing for Koreen's family.

Message

The Final Discourse: Counting the Cost

John 15:17–16:4

Introduction

We are living in a hostile world with godless people who are a part of Satan's system hate Christ. And they hate those who are committed to proclaiming Christ. We are living in a world that reacts violently to the message of sin.

Jesus in the last night before He leaves this world in His crucifixion, this last time with His disciples, not only gives them promise after promise after promise but He also gives them this great warning to be aware of the hatred of the world.

I. Christians must expect the hatred of the world (15:17–25)

A. The hatred of the world stands in marked contrast to the love among God's people. *"This is my command," Jesus says: "Love each other. If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first" (15:17, 18).*

If some Christian claims that Christianity is exclusive (as Jesus insisted), or that moral absolutes exist because they are grounded in the character of God (as the Bible teaches), or that there is a hell to be shunned as well as a heaven to be gained, the most intemperate language is used to excoriate the poor fool. The world hates.¹

B. The world hates because the world and the church are mutually exclusive; and the world resents any lack of conformity to itself.

John 15:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ *If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.*

The church and the world are heading in different directions, operating under different orders, and cherishing distinct allegiances. This fundamental opposition between the world and the church is revealed in the strongest language when John says, *"You, dear children, are from God. . . . They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us"* (1 John 4:4–6).

C. The world hates us because it hated Jesus Christ. *"If the world hates you," Jesus says, "keep in mind that it hated me first" (15:18). "No servant is greater than his master (15:20)."*