

Introduction

No Longer Servants, but a Chosen Band of Brothers (15:12-17)

¹² “This is My commandment: that you• love each other as I have loved you•.

¹³ “Greater love has no one *than* this: that someone would lay down his *mortal* life for his friends.

¹⁴ “You• are My friends, if you• do whatever *things* I command you•.

¹⁵ “I no longer call you• servants, because a servant does not know what his master is doing. But I have called you• friends, because I have made known to you• everything I have heard from My Father.

¹⁶ “You• did not choose Me, but I chose you• and appointed you• that you• should go forth and bear a yield, and that your• yield should abide, so that He would give you• whatever you• ask the Father in My name. ¹⁷ “These *things* I command you•: that you• love one another.

Coming Persecutions for Christ’s Sake (15:18-25)

¹⁸ “If the world hates you•, know• that it has hated Me before *it hated* you•.

¹⁹ “If you• were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet, because you• are not of the world, but I have chosen you• out of the world, because of this the world hates you•.

²⁰ “Remember the word that I told 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 also keep yours•.

²¹ “Instead, they will do all these *things* to you• because of My name, because they do not know the *One* who sent Me.

²² “If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin. But now they do not have an excuse for their sin. ²³ “The *one* who hates Me also hates My Father.

²⁴ “If I had not done the works among them (*those* which no one else has done), they would not have sin. But now they have seen *Me* and hated both Me and My Father.

²⁵ But *this is* so the statement written in their law might be fulfilled: ‘They hated Me without cause.’”

Testimony by the Advocate and by the Apostles under Persecution (15:26–16:4)

²⁶ “However, when the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you• from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father. He will testify about Me.

²⁷ “And you• also testify, because you• are with Me from the beginning. ¹ “I have spoken these *things* to you•, lest you• be made to stumble.

² “They will make you• *outcasts* from synagogues. Indeed, an hour is coming that everyone who kills you• will suppose he is offering service to God.

³ “And they will do these *things* because they have known neither the Father nor Me.

⁴ “But I have spoken these *things* to you•, so you• may remember them— when the hour comes— that I told you•. Yet I have not spoken to you• these *things* from *the* beginning, because I was with you•.”

Conclusion