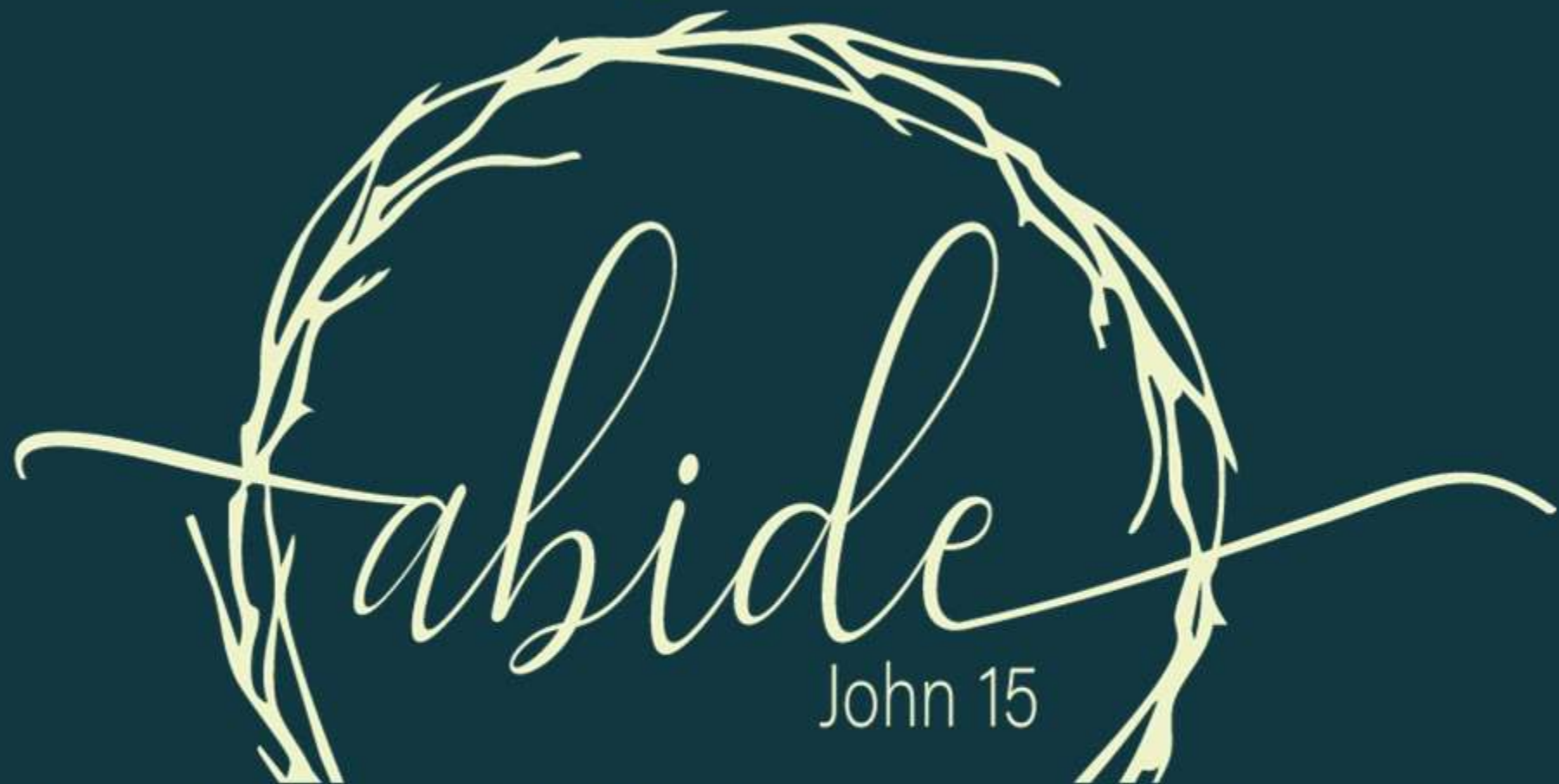


8th Annual 2025 Embracing Biblical Womanhood Conference



*"Apart from **HIM**, we can do nothing"*

Holy Spirit Love for a Hostile World

John 15:18-16:4



*"Apart from **HIM**, we can do nothing"*

Read John 15:1-16:4



*"Apart from **HIM**, we can do nothing"*

Context: A warning for the future

- Jesus is warning and preparing disciples for future hardship
- Disciples don't understand
- He's about to leave them



18 If the world hates you, know that it hated Me before it hated you. **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 have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

- World is a major theme in John used 78x in this gospel (kosmos in Greek)
- 5x just in those 2 verses
- Used to describe people in sin and darkness hostile to Christ and ruled by Satan



κόσμος

Transliteration

kosmos (Key)

Pronunciation

kos'-mos



Word / Phrase / Strong's Search

« Previous Strong's G2888

Next Strong's G2890 »

G2889

ESV



Search

Outline of Biblical Usage [?]

- I. an apt and harmonious arrangement or constitution, order, government
- II. ornament, decoration, adornment, i.e. the arrangement of the stars, 'the heavenly hosts', as the ornament of the heavens. 1 Pet. 3:3
- III. the world, the universe
- IV. the circle of the earth, the earth
- V. the inhabitants of the earth, men, the human family
- VI. the ungodly multitude; the whole mass of men alienated from God, and therefore hostile to the cause of Christ
- VII. world affairs, the aggregate of things earthly
 1. the whole circle of earthly goods, endowments riches, advantages, pleasures, etc, which although hollow and frail and fleeting, stir desire, seduce from God and are obstacles to the cause of Christ
- VIII. any aggregate or general collection of particulars of any sort
 1. the Gentiles as contrasted to the Jews (Rom. 11:12 etc)

Concordance Results Shown Using the ESV

Strong's Number **G2889** matches the Greek κόσμος (*kosmos*), which occurs 186 times in **151** verses in the **MGNT Greek**.

Page 1 / 4 (Mat 4:8–Jhn 16:8)

[View OT results in the LXX Greek concordance](#)

[View NT results in the TR Greek concordance](#)



What is the world like?

John 3:19-20

And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.

John 12:31

Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out

1 John 5:19

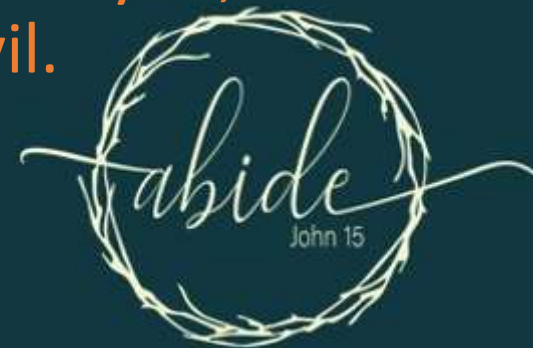
We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.



World doesn't hate its own

John 7:1-7

After this, Jesus traveled in Galilee, since he did not want to travel in Judea because the Jews were trying to kill him. 2 The Jewish Festival of Shelters was near. 3 So his brothers [unbelieving biological brothers] said to him, “Leave here and go to Judea so that your disciples can see your works that you are doing. 4 For no one does anything in secret while he’s seeking public recognition. If you do these things, show yourself to the world.” 5 (For not even his brothers believed in him.) 6 Jesus told them, “My time has not yet arrived, but your time is always at hand. 7 The world cannot hate you, but it does hate me because I testify about it — that its works are evil.



Of the World	Chosen Out of the World
Part of the ungodly multitude alienated from God and hostile to the gospel of Christ	Children of God, co-heirs with Christ, Spirit-filled, born again believers of the gospel of Christ
World loves them	World hates them
Not (or not yet) chosen	Chosen
Not part of the chosen	Not part of the world
Serve Satan	Serve the Triune God of the Universe

So are you *of* the world?



But I have chosen you out of the world

1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.



20 Remember the word that I said to 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.

Matthew 10: 16-25

16 “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. 17 Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, 18 and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. 19 When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. 20 For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. 21 Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, 22 and you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 23 When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. 24 “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. 25 It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

John 13:16

16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.



Jesus clearly communicating what is to come

- Hatred from the world
- But also following from those also chosen out of the world
 - Other believers will follow the disciples
 - It's not complete rejection



What is Persecution?



DictionaryThesaurus

persecute

GamesWord of the DayGrammarWord

Dictionary

Definition

Did you know? 

Synonyms

Synonym Chooser

Example Sentences

Word History

persecute

verb

per·se·cute ('pər-si-,kyüt)

persecuted; persecuting

[Synonyms of persecute >](#)

transitive verb

1 : to harass or punish in a manner designed to injure, grieve, or afflict

specifically : to cause to suffer because of belief

Mt 5:10-11 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when others **revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account**. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

1 Peter 4:12-14 Beloved, do not be surprised at **the fiery trial** when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are **insulted for the name of Christ**, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

What else should we know about persecution?

- Promised for all Christians
- Varying levels of persecution
- Based on faith and obedience to Christ
- Opportunity to be able to bear witness
- Not all suffering is persecution

21 But all these things **they** will do to you on account of My name, because **they** do not know Him who sent Me. 22 If I had not come and spoken to **them**, **they** would not have been guilty of sin, but now **they** have no excuse for **their** sin. 23 Whoever hates me hates my Father also. 24 If I had not done among **them** the works that no one else did, **they** would not be guilty of sin, but now **they** have seen and hated both me and my Father. 25 but the word that is written in **their** Law must be fulfilled: '**They** hated me without a cause.'

They/Them = the Jews and Jewish Leadership

- The ones who heard the Christ with own ears & saw the miracles with own eyes and yet rejected
- Jewish leaders will lead the charge to persecute the apostles and disciples
 - They will think it worship
 - This is Saul before he was Paul
- Jews are about to become the early church's first enemy

21 But all these things they
will do to you on account of
My name, because they do
not know Him who sent Me.

22 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.

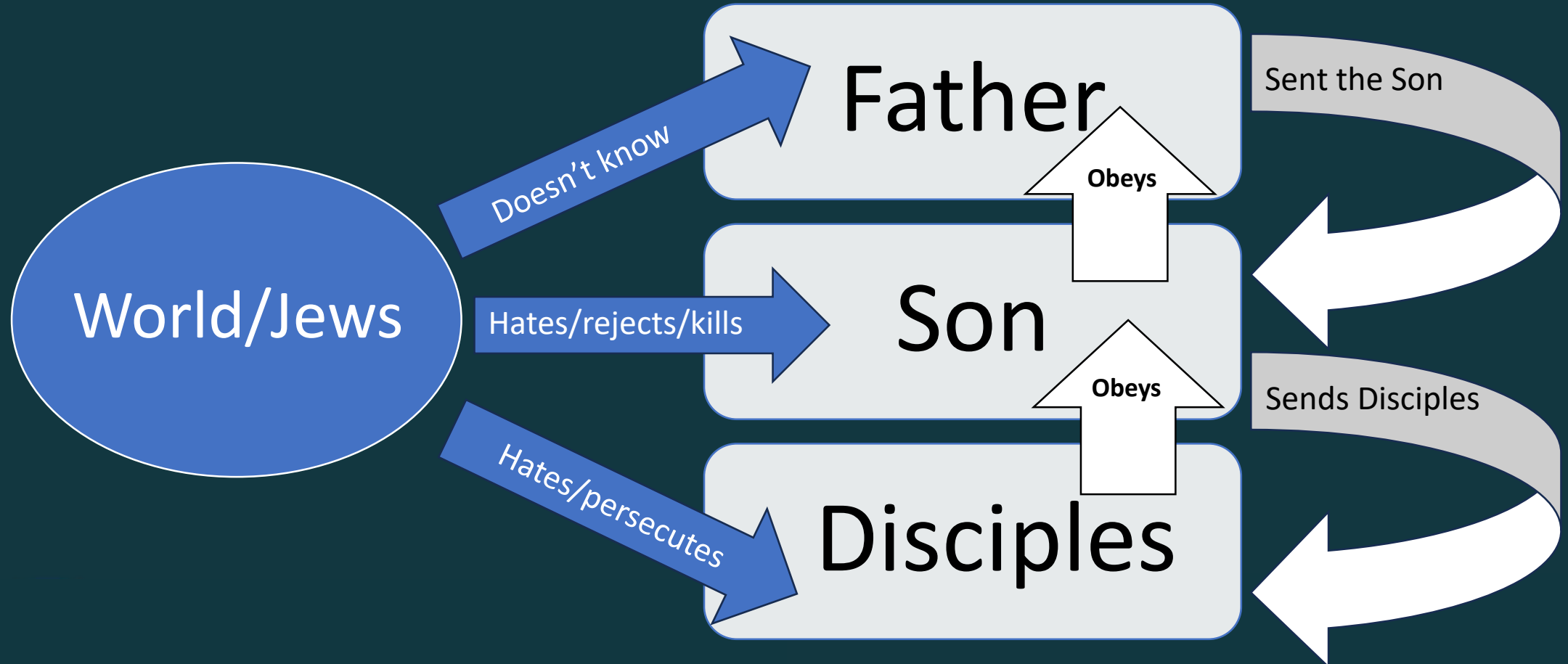
23 Whoever hates Me hates My Father as well. **24** If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have seen and hated both Me and My Father.

The Jews reject Christ and the Father

- Not saying that the Jews wouldn't have any sin if Jesus didn't come
 - Romans 3:23 All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
- He's saying He did come. He did teach. He did miracles that only the Messiah could have done and yet the Jews rejected them.
- The Jews wouldn't have been **guilty of the sin of rejecting** Him if He hadn't come. But He did and so they are.
- Rejecting the Son is rejecting the Father
- John 1:11

He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him





25 But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated Me without reason.'

Ps 35:19

Let not those rejoice over me who are wrongfully my foes, and let not those wink the eye who hate me without cause.

Ps. 69:4

More in number than the hairs of my head are those who hate me without cause; mighty are those who would destroy me, those who attack me with lies. What I did not steal must I now restore?



But what if we
don't *feel* hated?

Why aren't we more
harshly persecuted?

Phil 1:12-14 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, 13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. 14 And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.



26 But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness about Me. **27** And you also will bear witness because you have been with Me from the beginning.

Holy Spirit promised and the disciples' command

- Holy Spirit will bear witness
 - Advocate
 - Spirit of Truth
 - Helper
- Disciples must also bear witness
 - Disciples were just given the same job as the Holy Spirit—AMAZING!



Disciples will need Holy Spirit's help

- Jesus is leaving
- Jews will hate them and cut them off from their people/synagogues
- World will hate them
- Both will persecute and kill them
- They must continue to testify about Christ
- They simply aren't able to bear it all without help

How does the Holy Spirit help?

- Spirit—who Christ has promised—is better for the disciples
 - In dwelling, permanent presence lead, guide, strengthen, comfort,
 - Helps them understand His words
 - Gives them the words to say
 - Go back to the Matthew passage at the sending out 2 by 2
 - Olivet Discourse

Matthew 10: 16-25

16 “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. 17 Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, 18 and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. 19 When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. 20 For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. 21 Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, 22 and you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 23 When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. 24 “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. 25 It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

Holy Spirit gives words

Luke 21:12-19 (Olivet Discourse in Luke)

But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. 13 This will be your opportunity to bear witness. 14 Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, 15 for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. 16 You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. 17 You will be hated by all for my name's sake. 18 But not a hair of your head will perish. 19 By your endurance you will gain your lives.

1 “I have said all of these things to keep you from falling away. **2** They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering a service to God. **3** And they will do these things because they have not known the Father nor Me. **4** But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told them to you. I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.



NLT

"I have told you these things so that you won't abandon your faith.



NIV

"All this I have told you so that you will not fall away.



ESV

"I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away.



CSB

"I have told you these things to keep you from stumbling.



LSB

"These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling.



AMP

"I have told you these things so that you will not stumble *or* be caught off guard *and* fall away.



NET

"I have told you all these things so that you will not fall away.



NASB95

"These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling.



σκανδαλίζω

Transliteration

skandalizō (Key)

Pronunciation

skan-dal-id'-zo



Part of Speech

verb

Root Word (Etymology)

From σκάνδαλον (G4625)

Greek Inflections of σκανδαλίζω [?]

mGNT

29x in 14 unique form(s)

TR

30x in 14 unique form(s)

LXX

0x in 0 unique form(s)

Word / Phrase / Strong's Search

« Previous Strong's G4623

Next Strong's G4625 »

G4624

ESV



Search

Concordance Results Shown Using the ESV

Strong's Number **G4624** matches the Greek σκανδαλίζω
(*skandalizō*),

which occurs 29 times in **27** verses in the **MGNT Greek**.

[View OT results in the LXX Greek concordance](#)

[View NT results in the TR Greek concordance](#)

Strong's Definitions [?]

(Strong's Definitions Legend)

σκανδαλίζω skandalizō, skan-dal-id'-zo; from G4625; to entrap, i.e. trip up (figuratively, stumble (transitively) or entice to sin, apostasy or displeasure):—(make to) offend.



Skandalidzo: What does falling away mean here?

- What is falling away here?
 - Is it a smaller stumbling
 - Is it not following the commands to bear witness, abide, not bear fruit
 - Is a temporary falling away for a period?
 - Is it a full apostasy?

Loving, Caring Warning

- He wants them to know what is coming
- He wants them to know that He knows what is coming
- Christ knows what they will do
- Yet He tells them what they will need to know later to build their faith now



The early church faced severe persecution

- Thrown out of their synagogues
 - Literally Unsynagogued
 - That was their “bubble.” Those were their people.
- Being Jewish was the heart of their “chosen-ness” before Christ and in many ways it will now be over for them.
- Violence, threats, slander, arrests, and death for those they knew and even for themselves

Persecution of early church fulfilled

- Peter and John jailed, questioned, threatened, and commanded not to preach in the name of Christ. Their experience led them to preach even more boldly Acts 4:1-20
- Apostles arrested and jailed Acts 5:17
- Apostles flogged Acts 5:29-42
- Stephen stoned to death Acts 7:54-60

Persecution of early church fulfilled

- And Saul approved of his [Stephen's] execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Acts 8:1
- Saul threatens and arrests and kills Christians Acts 9:1-2
- Jews conspire to kill Paul Acts 9:23; Grecian Jews tried to kill Paul Acts 9:29
- Violence towards believers, James is killed by Herod, Peter imprisoned Acts 12

Why Jesus didn't tell them at first

- Because He was with them
 - He was the subject of scorn not the disciples
 - He would take the hate
 - He would bear it all until he bore it all
- Now that's changing and He won't be with them

6 Points for Application



1. Remember we have a mission: Proclaim Christ

- Jesus said, “You must also bear witness.”
- Even though the world hates you, even though it’s costly
- Christianity is for all
- We are not here for ourselves

2. Adopt a biblical perspective
on suffering/persecution
for Christ

- Romans 8:16-18

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.** 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

- 2 Cor 12:10

For the sake of Christ, then, **I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities.** For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- Phil 1:29

For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you **should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake**

- Acts 5:40-41

...and when they [the council] had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 Then they left the presence of the council, **rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.** 42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

3. Accept the truth of situation: it's hard to be hated by the world, but there is joy and some will believe

- 1 John 3:13 Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.
- 2 Tim 3:12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,
- 2 Cor 2:15-16a 15 For we [believers] are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, 16 to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life.

4. Consider your
contact with the world

- Do you need more contact with the world?
- When you have contact be bold
 - Eph 6: 18-20 Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints. 19 Pray also for me, that the message may be given to me when I open my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel. 20 For this I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I might be bold enough to speak about it as I should.
- Do you need less contact with the world?

5. Jesus is concerned
for your faith-
you should be too

6. Rely on the Holy Spirit,
Abide in Christ,
and Love the World



*"Apart from **HIM**, we can do nothing"*