

THE ENEMY WITHIN!

"And a man's foes shall be they of his own household." Matthew 10:36

WARNING! *"Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide: keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom. For the son dishonoreth the father, the daughter rises up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law, a man's enemies are the men of his own house. (Micah 7:5-6).*

We knew a brother a while back who has since gone home to be with the Lord. Because of his concern and love for their eternal souls, he preached to his family every chance he got. Then one day his family gave him an ultimatum because they didn't want to hear about Christianity anymore, "it's either Jesus or us." Well, Pat chose Jesus because he remembered what the Bible said in Matthew 10:37: *"He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."* His family then disowned him.

Sometime after that, Pat got sick and was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. When he was dying, first in the hospital, and then in the nursing home, he would have died alone like a dog if it wasn't for us, his real brothers in the Lord staying with him and even sleeping over every night so that he wouldn't be alone. Pat was not going to be alone, not on our watch! We take no credit for this; it was merely the Lord's love for Pat that put it into us to do this for him. Flesh and blood doesn't make you family, the Spirit does – the **Holy Spirit**, which dwells in each of us Born Again Christians (1 Corinthians 3:16).

Also, recently, a beloved sister in the Lord who lives in Pennsylvania wrote and said that her brothers had basically disowned her because she is a Born Again Christian and they don't want to hear about Jesus or the Bible anymore. That's typical, but we should expect this because Jesus did say in Matthew 10:34-35 *"Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law."*

The rejection, betrayal, and even murder of God's children from family members is nothing new. It's been happening since the beginning. Look at the following examples to see who the real enemy within is. It's our so-called family members who refuse to love God and obey His word. Even Jesus said: *"Who are my mothers, and my brothers, and sisters, but those who hear the word of God and do it."* (Luke 8:19-21, Matthew 12:46-50).

Let these examples be an encouragement to you knowing that the children of God from the beginning have been getting this kind of treatment from those who are supposed to love them the most. *"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution"* (2 Timothy 3:12).

1. Cain killed his brother Abel – Genesis 4:8
2. Ishmael mocking his younger brother Isaac when he was a little child – Genesis 21:9-10
3. Esau hating Jacob and intending to kill him because of the blessing his father gave him – Genesis 27:30-41
4. Joseph envied and sold into slavery by his brothers – Genesis 37:4-28
5. King David's wife Michal, despising him when she saw David dancing as the Ark was being brought into Jerusalem -2 Samuel 6:12-16
6. King David betrayed and chased out of Jerusalem by his son Absalom- 2 Samuel 15:1-23
7. Job's wife turning against him when he was first afflicted by satan – Job 2:9-10
8. Job complaining that his entire family, friends, and servants have turned against him and deserted him – Job 19:13-19
9. The Lord telling Isaiah that his brothers hated him for His sake – Isaiah 66:5
10. Jeremiah told by God that his brethren and the house of his father were dealing treacherously with him – Jeremiah 12:6
11. Even Jesus warned that brother shall betray brother unto death – Matthew 10:21-22

Yes, since the very beginning, the children of God have always been persecuted by the children of the devil in their own families (1 John 4:6). The only chance they have of ever being saved is for us who are saved to continue to be beacons of light for them, and that light is rapidly coming to a close. The rapture, the evacuation of all of

God's true children is going to take place sooner rather than later. The father is going to turn to the Lord up in heaven and tell Him to go and remove your church from off the earth (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18). Thus, the first phase of the second coming of Jesus Christ will commence. We will immediately disappear, "*in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye*" (1 Corinthians 15:51-53) when Jesus speaks the words "*Come up hither*" (Revelation 4:1). Then those family members who have mocked, ridiculed, scoffed, plotted, and out and out rejected the Lord and us will deal with the other side of God. His patience will be over on that day, and the time of His wrath will begin. A time of terror the world has never seen or will ever see again (Matthew 24:21). It will be so bad that if Jesus didn't shorten those days, no one would be left alive (vs 22). None of us wants that to happen to any of our family members, so we must continue to pray for and preach to them despite the hatred we're going to experience from them.

Salvation is a free gift bought and paid for by Jesus at the cross (Colossians 1:19-21). All we need to do to accept that gift is to repent to God (Acts 17:30) and call on the Lord while He may be found (Isaiah 55:6) and ask Him to come into our hearts and receive Him as Lord and Saviour of our lives (John 1:12). And if you're ever going to do it, do it today while there is still time (2 Corinthians 6:2).

It's so simple and easy that our family members and the world in general, just can't accept it. They will try to do it "their way," either through religion, good deeds, or their own self-righteousness, but the Bible *says* "*There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death*" (Proverbs 16:25, 21:2). They won't listen to us because the Bible also says "*That a man is not without honour except in his own home*" (Matthew 13:57). So pray to the Lord to send someone from outside the family to witness to them. Maybe they will listen - maybe they won't, but at least their blood will be off our hands (Ezekiel 3:18-19). Until then, hold out hope "*for with God, nothing shall be impossible*" (Luke 1:37).

AMEN!