

**"HATRED WITHOUT CAUSE"****Introduction**

1. Ryle:
  - i. our relation to Christ
  - ii. to one another as believers
  - iii. the world
2. Christ's words show us the world's hatred
3. But here is the God-given answer

**1. GOD'S WORD HARDENS SOME AND SOFTENS OTHERS**

- 1) v.22: The ministry of Christ was to save men – but it also increased the guilt of some.
- 2) The principle is: the more light men have the guiltier they are if they reject it.
- 3) It is in these words similarly:
  - (i) "To whom much is given... (Luke 12:48)
  - (ii) "Take heed that your light be not darkness"
  - (iii) "God shall send them strong delusion"
  - (iv) "Because they did not like... (Romans 1)
- 4) **ILLUSTRATION**: "The sun that melts the butter..."  
"The corruption of the best..."  
**APPLICATION**: The problem in the UK today: "gospel-hardening". We are guilty in the same way the Jews of old were (Luke 12:47)

**2. WE ARE TO HONOUR THE BLESSED HOLY SPIRIT**

- 1) v.26: The "Comforter": the Holy Spirit:
  - (i) the "Spirit of truth". Explain
  - (ii) "proceedeth from the Father". Note

(iii) "I will send"**OBSERVE**: The Trinity is taught here.

- 2) The Spirit will help them (and us) to witness – amidst a world which hates Christ
- 3) The Persons of the Godhead all act to save:
  - (i) The Father: chooses / sends Christ
  - (ii) The Son: obeys the Father / dies / sends the Holy Spirit
  - (iii) The Spirit: makes the gospel powerful
- 4) Note: the Procession of the Spirit is from the Father and the Son. (Cp. Eastern Church).
- 5) This is what we need in the UK just now:
  - (i) the witness of the Spirit with the Word
  - (ii) to convince men of the truth (16:8-11)
  - (iii) to make the preachers bold**ILLUSTRATION**: Acts 2f  
**APPLICATION**: O pray that the Spirit might come to us again!

**3. THE APOSTLES HELD A SPECIAL OFFICE**

- 1) v.27: "bear witness...beginning.  
See Acts 1: the replacement of Judas
- 2) The Apostles: "The Twelve" – also Paul
- 3) The kinds of ministers:
  - (i) apostles: laying the foundation: 1 Cor. 3
  - (ii) prophets: helpers: e.g. Agabus, etc.
  - (iii) evangelists: Timothy + Titus, etc.
  - (iv) pastors / teachers? preachers today
- 4) The error of the Charismatic Theory:
  - (i) the "gifts": for that age
  - (ii) the scriptures – our rule today**OBSERVE**: Charismatics v. Cessationists  
**APPLICATION**: Our weakness as churches relate to

- the gospel-hardness of society
- the Spirit evidently is grieved  
**OBSERVE**: Our duty is to pray for Him!

## **CONCLUSION**

1. Revival is needed
2. Examples of revivals
3. Who knows how soon He may return?

**PSALM**

**44: 1 – 6**

**77: 5 – 10**

**102<sup>2</sup>: 13 – 18**