

# Holistic Witness in a Hostile World

August 28<sup>th</sup> 2016

# John 15:18-27

**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 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. **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. **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,<sup>[c]</sup> 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.’

**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.

# Perpetua and Felicitas (AD 203)







PERPETUA AND FELICITAS GORED BY A BULL IN THE ARENA.

# Outline

1. Enmity of the world (v.18-25)
2. Empowering Spirit (v.26)
3. Enduring witness (v.27)

# Enmity of 'the world'

John 8:44

***You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.***

- Those who suppress the truth with their unrighteousness (Rom.1:18)
- Those who deny Christ and the Gospel
- Those who persist in darkness in their unbelief even though light is shown to them

## **v.18-25**

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# the world

- ⦿ Hates the Son and persecutes the Son
- ⦿ Hates the disciples and persecutes the disciples
- ⦿ Hates the Father (v.24)
- ⦿ Guilty of sin
- ⦿ Has no excuse



## 2. Empowering Spirit

***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.***

- ⦿ He is a person
- ⦿ Helper (*Paraclete* – the one walks along, comforter, counselor)
- ⦿ Sent by Christ
- ⦿ From the Father and proceeds from the Father
- ⦿ The Spirit of Truth
- ⦿ Bear witness about Christ

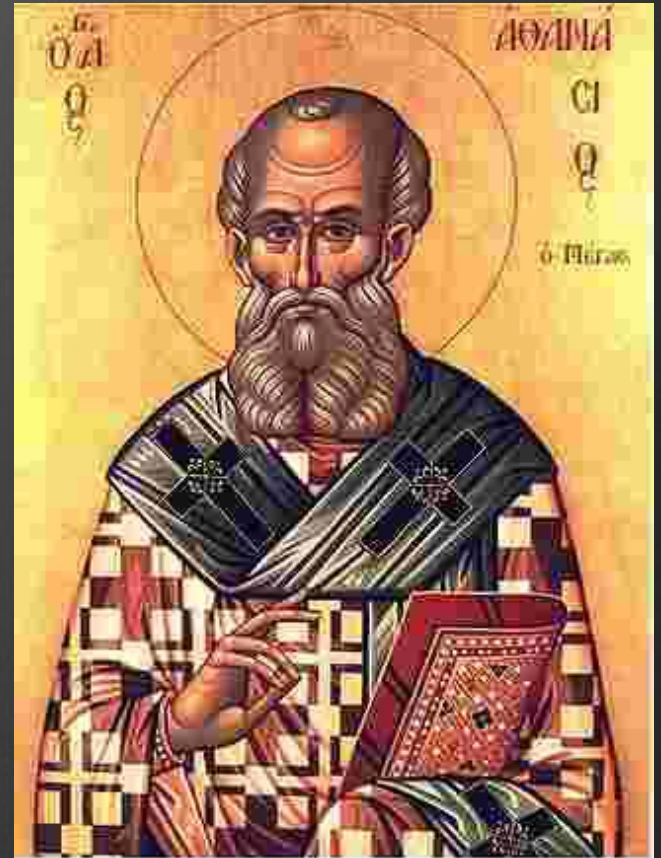
# Trinity - WCF

**In the unity of the Godhead there be three Persons of one substance, power, and eternity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. The Father is of none, neither begotten nor proceeding; the Son is eternally begotten of the Father; the Holy Ghost eternally proceeding from the Father and the Son.**

# Trinity



Tertullian (AD 155-225)



Athanasius (AD 297-373)



# On the Holy Spirit



Cappadocian Fathers (AD 4<sup>th</sup> century – Gregory, Basil, Gregory of Nazianzus)

# Macrina





# 3. Enduring Witness

***27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.***

- John the Baptist
- Jesus Christ
- New Testament – Gospels and Epistles
- Martyrdom of Stephen, James and other apostles
- Martyrdom of early Christians under Roman Empire
- Martyrdom of modern day Christians

## Hebrews 12:1

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us..*