



Gospel of Grace
FELLOWSHIP

1 John 3:13-15

Crossing Over From Death to Life

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The Text From Lexham English Bible

1 John 3:13
Do not **marvel**, (lit. 'stop being amazed') brothers, if ('as is the case') the world hates you.

1 John 3:14
We know that we have passed over (perfect tense) **from death to life** because we love the brothers. The one who does not love remains (*meno_ = abides*) in death.

1 John 3:15
Everyone who **hates** his brother is a **murderer** (*man-killer*), and you know that every murderer does not have eternal life residing in him. ('residing' = *meno_*)

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Do Not Be Amazed

1 John 3:13 (LEB)
Do not marvel, brothers, if the world hates you.

- The term "marvel" is used in the gospels for responses to Jesus' miracles
- Like Cain hating Abel, the world hates Christians
- "World" is *kosmos* which here means the world in its rebellion to and alienation from God

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Range of Meaning for “Kosmos”

From the Theological Dictionary of the NT

- World I = The Universe, The Sum of All Created Being
- World II = The Abode of Humanity, The Theater of History, The Inhabited World, Place of Human Affairs
- World III = Fallen Creation, The Setting of Salvation History, The Human World That Is Hostile to God

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3

Crossing Over to Life

1John 3:14a (LEB)

We know that we have **passed over** from death to life because we love the brothers.

- Love of fellow Christians is a sign of conversion but not the cause of it
- Life and death here describe eternal states
- Believers have gone from one spiritual sphere to another
- All were in the sphere of death to start with

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The Danger of Abiding in Death

1John 3:14b (LEB)

The one who does not love remains in death.

- Many have false assurance
- “remains” is *meno*, a common word in John’s writings
- This is still reminding us of Cain and Abel
- Being made alive is a work of God’s grace (Ephesians 2:5)

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Those Who Hate Are Like Cain

1John 3:15 (LEB)

Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that every murderer does not have eternal life residing in him.

- Jesus warned that anger is tantamount to murder (Matthew 5:21, 22)
- Eternal life only abides in those who have crossed over
- The hater lacks the life of God in him

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Implications and Applications

- The world hates Christians
- We should not try to remedy our hated status through compromise
- We must “cross over” and find life

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Do Not Compromise to Gain Friendship

James 4:4 (NET)

Adulterers, do you not know that friendship with the world means hostility toward God? So whoever decides to be the world’s friend makes himself God’s enemy.

- James describes spiritual adultery (Jeremiah 3:8, Mark 8:38)
- “Decides” is *boulomai* which is a deliberate choice
- The world hates Christ (John 15:18)

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Cross Over to Life!

John 5:24 (NET)
“I tell you the solemn truth, the one who hears my message and believes the one who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned, but has crossed over from death to life.

- “Crossed over” is *metabaino*, which means to go from one place or state to another
- “message” is “word” (logos)
- Those who believe in the Father must also believe in the Son
- The one who believes “has” life, eternal life

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**We Must Humbly Remember
Where We Came From**

Titus 3:2-5 (NASB)
to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men. For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

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