

Refrigerator Notes 22 March 2015
Hating Life for Eternal Life
John 12 20-33 (focus v.25-26)

1. The text is one that is often misinterpreted in scriptures. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.
2. There is a thin line between love and hate and often than not, the lines become blurred, if you make it that way
3. Most of us have had a hate love relationship with our selves, yet we say we love God, but we are willing to put many things before God in the name of our love for selfish needs
4. Biblically speaking, there are positive and negative aspects associated with the text, specifically the word hate in the context that it is being used in the text
5. Scripture informs us (psalm 97. 10a), "Let those who love the Lord hate evil"
6. The more we understand God's attributes and love God's character, the more we will be like Jesus and hate (positive) those things that are contrary to God's Word and nature
7. However, our interpretation of the word hatred (negative) is associated with our personal dislike for things or people
8. However, the Lord mentions hatred in the Sermon on the Mount "But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother (sister) will be subject to judgment (Matthew 5 22)
9. The Lord commands that not only should we be reconciled with our brother (sister) before we go before the Lord, but that we do it quickly Matthew 5 23-26)
10. So heinous is the position of hate before God that a man who hates is said to be walking in darkness, as opposed to light (1John 2 9,11)
11. The worst situation is that of a man who continues professing he loves Jesus, but remains at enmity (hatred) with his brother – even worst is when our brother or sister tries to defend their sin only to commit a more grievous sin
12. But God is not merely speaking of our enmity towards one another, but directly about our need to lay up treasures here on earth 'what good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, but loses his soul'
13. The context of our text is saying, the one who hates his life is the one who is living for eternal life to come - Jesus commands that we should lay up treasures in heaven
14. The person who is willing to follow Jesus, even to the cross, is the one who will be honored by God – we honor God by putting God first (ahead) in our lives
15. However, the context that we are addressing this morning also speaks of Jesus' impending death, but Jesus moves from discussing His death to suggesting that we all must die in our service to Him
16. Saving one's life and losing one's life are just figures of speech, but it is clear that losing one's life means denying oneself, for the sake of Jesus – taking up the cross and even suffering for our Lord
17. The abundance of our eternal life in the life to come is directly related to how we should live today and not tomorrow,
18. We have got to be able to love God and hate those things we love more than God, if we want eternal life with God
19. Sin is the common denominator that separates us from God