

*"Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building, and hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia." **Ezra 4:4-5 KJV***



Jesus prayed for His own, *"I have given them Thy Word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through Thy Truth: Thy Word is Truth."* You can't be the world's friend and God's friend. *"Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."* Jesus said, *"He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."* Friends have the same mind – common ground – fellowship. They agree. Having the same philosophies as the world is friendship with the world! Are yours derived from God's Word or not? Believers can rejoice in the darkness of this world, because they are not of it and they *"look for a city whose builder and maker is God."* Those who trouble us are *"the people of the land."* We are *"strangers and pilgrims"* who are passing through on our way to the Celestial City; trying to persuade others to join us; to leave their darkness and bondage behind as we have been persuaded to do! Christ builds His Church through His own Body, the Church. The wicked would see us fail. They conspire and hire against us to frustrate our purpose of rescuing the slaves of sin from everlasting doom! They do all in their power to stop the work of the Lord with a hatred born of hell and its intended recipients, Satan and his angels. Men are the objects of Satan's vengeance, because he cannot fight God, his Creator. His fury is turned against men, especially those of the household of faith, as he manipulates and controls the unsaved through their own carnal lusts! His satanic whispers – fiery darts – zealously pit them against those whose only crime is to offer the liberty of eternal life! They cannot destroy God, so they destroy the object of His love. *"As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God."* Once protected by the very presence of God through faith, the only thing Satan and his minions can touch or harm is your carnal flesh! Your life is *"hid with Christ in God; for greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world."* So, as the blind and lost of this world conspire and cry against you, build *"up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost. Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh."* Hell eternally rings with the cries of those fooled by Satan's lies!

As pilgrims tread the faithful path,
They're often faced with Satan's wrath,
But he can do no lasting harm,
To those beneath Jehovah's Arm! ~CGP

Satan may cause us physical suffering, but has no power over our eternal Life for *"it is hid with Christ in God."* Try as he will, his best efforts, like autumn leaves, are driven away before the wind of the Holy Spirit's power! *"When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him."* Satan's time is short, and he is now doubling his efforts to destroy as many as he can before he is forever silenced! Like a dying beast, his last gasp will be his best, but it shall not prevail!

*"Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever. Amen." **Jude 1:24-25 KJV***