

"When It Comes In The Guise Of A Friend" by **J.C.Philpot**

"Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." **John 16:33**

Does not this verse show that the world is an enemy to the Lord, and to the Lord's people? And never so much an enemy, never to be so much dreaded, as when it comes in the guise of a friend. When it steals upon your heart, engrosses your thoughts, wins your affections, draws away your mind from God, then it is to be dreaded. When the world smites us as an enemy, its blows are not to be feared. It is when it smiles upon us as a friend, it is most to be dreaded. When our eyes begin to drink it in, when our ears begin to listen to its voice, when our hearts become entangled in its fascinations, when our minds get filled with its anxieties, when our affections depart from the Lord and cleave to the things of time and sense, then the world is to be dreaded.

"You shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their engraved images with fire!" **Deuteronomy 7:5**

Our hearts are by nature full of Canaanitish idols and heathenish abominations, which must be destroyed! Lusts after evil things, adulterous images, idolatrous desires, strong hankerings after sin - along with evils which have the impudence to wear a religious garb - such as towering thoughts of our own ability, pleasing dreams of creature holiness, swellings up of pride - dressed out and painted in all the tawdry colors of Satanic delusion - how can these abominations be allowed to run rampant in the human heart?

The altars and religious rites of Canaanites were to be destroyed as much as their idols! And thus we may say of that very religious being - man - that his false worship and heathenish notions of God must be destroyed, as well as his more flagrant, though not more dangerous, lusts and abominations. The sentence against both is, "Destroy them!" They must not stand side by side with Immanuel, who is to have the preeminence in all things, and who is "the Alpha and the Omega. the first and the last." And O what a mercy it is to have both our fleshly and religious abominations destroyed! For I am sure that God and self never can rule in the same heart - that Christ and the devil can never reign in the same bosom - each claiming the supremacy!

J.C.Philpot

CONTACT INFORMATION

Richard Warmack, Pastor - (318) 513-9809

EMAIL: pastor@gracebaptistofruston.org

WEBSITE ADDRESS: www.gracebaptistofruston.org

Also visit: www.sermonaudio.com/graceofruston

Grace Baptist Church

2808 N. Trenton Ruston, La.71270

3/5/17

Call To Worship

Great Father of glory, how rich is Thy grace
What wonderful love is displayed in thy face!
In Jesus Thy image with brightness we view,
And hope to be changed to that likeness anew.

By favor adopted, Thy sons we appear,
And led by Thy Spirit, we boldly draw near;
In Jesus beloved, and washed in His blood,
With hope we adore at the footstool of God.

The man who is blessed with true hope in the cross,
Is freed from the bondage of guilt and the curse;
The blood of His Surety by faith He reviews,
While hope in that fountain his spirit renews.

Arrayed in obedience, all wrought in the Lamb,
By Christ our Jehovah, the ancient I AM;
With boldness we journey, while Christ leads us on,
And hope soon in glory to praise the Three-One.

(Tune: "How Firm A Foundation", pg.268)

Remember In Prayer This Week:

Sallie Barfield; Judy Ward; Cindy Brantly;
Emily Dubose; Devonne Lewis; Dusty Adams;
Emily Gay; Lydia Headrick; Freida Womack

"Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."(Matt.10:34-39)

Happy Birthday This Week:

Isaac Ward - TODAY

William Mason's "Evening Thought"

"The rod of the wicked shall not rest upon the lot of the righteous, lest the righteous put forth their hands unto iniquity." Psalm 125:3.

How shall we draw the line between the righteous and the wicked? How shall we distinguish them, seeing they are both alike the subjects of a wicked nature, derived from Adam the sinner, their father? The Holy Ghost does this. He sets a mark upon the righteous, by which they are essentially distinguished from the wicked, in the first verse of this Psalm: "They trust in the Lord." The wicked trust in themselves, that they are righteous; trust in their own power, to make and keep themselves so; and hope for God's favour and heaven, because they are so. They trust in their own wisdom to guide them through life, and to their own goodness to make them happy in death. The righteous are stripped of their righteousness: they are convinced of sin: they are poor, hopeless, desperate, and in a forlorn and wretched condition as to themselves. (Do you see somewhat of your own picture here?) They trust in the Lord Jesus, for righteousness to justify and entitle them to heaven, to cleanse them from sin; for wisdom, to guide; power to support; grace, to sanctify; and love, to bring them to glory. Now, these two sorts of persons are back to back; the face of one is towards heaven; the other, towards hell. They are of two seeds; there is enmity put between them. The wicked have always a rod for the back of the righteous. Ay! and they would lay it on with both hands, and always keep it upon their backs too. Though, for wise and gracious ends, the Lord permits this for a season; yet he will not suffer it to rest there long. Wicked Saul was a scourge to righteous David; so was blaspheming Sennacherib to good Hezekiah: and says the church, "Thou caused men to ride over our heads." (Psalm 66:12.) Yet David came to the throne; Hezekiah and his people were unhurt by the Assyrians: and the church says, "We went through fire and water, but thou broughtest us into a wealthy place." Here is a reason why our Lord will not suffer the rod of the wicked to rest on the righteous: "Lest he put forth his hand unto iniquity." We never suffer judgment, but mercy is in it. Our troubles are dealt to us by the hand of love: mercy is mixed with them all. The Lord knows the righteous is but frail: he remembers he is but dust, and liable to sin: he is wise to prevent this. When oppression and trials from the wicked bring us low, and make us cry to the Lord, then we honour his grace and his power, his truth and his love, by the affiance of our heart. "He will fulfil the desire of them who fear him; he also will hear their cry and will save them." (Psalm 145:9.)