

## **Have We Forgotten That God Still Has Enemies?**

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A look at the rising levels of immorality in American society in a recent study on cohabitation reveals in comparison with 500,000 couples living together without being married in 1970 to 5,000,000 in 2005 that America has grown increasingly rebellious against God's will for marriage (*The State of Our Unions 2005*). Additionally, twenty-three years of abortion legalized by the United States Supreme Court in the famous Roe Vs. Wade decision has yielded not less than 34,500,000 innocent deaths. God hates the hands that shed innocent blood (Prov. 6:16-17). And, further, notice taken of the hundreds and hundreds of different religious groups standing defiantly against God's will for unity among believers in Christ and seemingly incessantly inventing new practices and terminology contrary to clearly revealed biblical directives for uniformity of teaching indicates widespread, blatant disrespect for the word of God (I Pet. 4:11).

The religious world persists in teaching that grace means "sin all you want," and the irreligious world persists in practicing that principle in the absence of formalized teaching on it. It is as if the world has forgotten the truth which says, "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (Jas. 4:4).

God still has enemies, and he has plans to destroy them all (I Pet. 4:5). Twice in Hebrews the Bible emphasizes that God will overcome all his enemies making them in effect his "footstool." Hebrews 1:13 says, "But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?" and chapter 10:12-13 reads, "But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool." The reign of Christ demonstrates his power over every evil force that stands against him and will culminate in the destruction of the enemies of God. I Corinthians 15:24-25 proves it, "Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet."

This world is an evil place. Paul wrote, "Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our

Father” (Gal. 1:3-4). The disciple whom Jesus loved wrote of it, “And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness” (I Jn. 5:19). Long centuries have seen recorded in holy writ the truth, “God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day” (Psa. 7:11).

Will the church of Jesus Christ today “fight the good fight of faith,” and “lay hold on eternal life”? (I Tim. 6:12). Or, will the battle cry of the indifferent continue to be answered by resounding millions today as in the days of the Messianic prophet Isaiah who charged, “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!” (Isa. 5:20-21). The faithful must say with the Psalmist, “Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, ye bloody men. For they speak against thee wickedly, and thine enemies take thy name in vain. Do not I hate them, O Lord, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee? I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies. Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psa. 139:19-24). The way for Christians to destroy the enemies of God is to love them enough to teach them the soul saving truth of God’s word (Mt. 5:43-45).