

Yes, We Do Have Enemies

Promise: God promises to deliver us from evil

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Jeremiah 20:7-13; Ps 91; Romans 6:12-23; [Matthew 10:5a, 21-33](#)
(3rd Sunday after Pentecost (Pr 7), 6/21/20)

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. – v. 28

Lead In – In the fairytale, lollypop, candy land of the current age, we may pretend that we have no real enemies. We might imagine that what we call enemies is simply the label we give to those we fear, and to those to whom we are intolerant. But Biblically speaking, we can be assured that we indeed have enemies...

I. What the Four Readings Have In Common

- Jeremiah had opposition to his preaching...
- The Psalmist's mention of the snare of the fowler
- Apostle Paul's warning of enemy from within...
- On being hated for Christ's name sake...

II. Scripture Witness Summed Up In Catechism

- Our enemy is threefold: devil, world, sinful self
- Two of three victimize us from the outside...
- Bearing responsible for the one within...

III. Fight of Faith Involves Fighting Against the Foe

- We are no match for the enemy...
- The weapons of our warfare are not worldly...
- Equipped, in so far as we continually repent...

Parting Shot – There is a reason it is important for us as Christians to recognize that yes, we do have enemies. For if we don't believe and recognize this, we will be ill-prepared when we come under the enemy's assault. We will think there is something wrong with us, or with the faith. We will likely to alter what we believe to avoid being attacked, or abandon the faith altogether. Fear will govern our lives, rather than the tremendous promises of God. Going ostrich-like, we won't eliminate the threat, and we also won't see the tremendous promise.

Mt 5:44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

Rm 11:28 As regards the gospel, they are enemies of God for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers.

Jer 20:8 For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long.

Ps 91:3 For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.

Rm 6:12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions.

Mt 10:22 And you will be hated by all for my name's sake.

Matthew 10:5a, 21-33 ESV

Have No Fear

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, ²¹"Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ²²and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

²⁴"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

²⁶"So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ²⁷What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³²So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

Jms 1:14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

1 Tm 6:12 Fight the good fight of the faith.

1 Jn 3:8 The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

2 Co 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

Eph 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

But deliver us from evil. We ask in this inclusive prayer that our heavenly Father would save us from every evil to body and soul, and at our last hour would mercifully take us from the troubles of this world to himself in heaven.

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Psalm 91

¹He who dwells in the shelter
of **the** Most High,*
abides under the shadow
of **the** Almighty.

²He shall say to the LORD,
“You are my refuge **and** my stronghold,*
my God in whom I **put** my trust.”

³He shall deliver you
from the snare **of** the hunter*
and from the **deadly** pestilence.

⁴He shall cover you with his pinions,
and you shall find refuge
under his wings;*
his faithfulness
shall be a **shield** and buckler.

⁵You shall not be afraid
of any **terror** by night,*
nor of the arrow that **flies** by day;

⁶of the plague
that stalks **in** the darkness,*
nor of the sickness
that lays **waste** at midday.

⁷A thousand shall fall at your side
and ten thousand at **your** right hand,*
but it shall **not** come near you.

⁸Your eyes have only **to** behold*
to see the reward **of** the wicked.

⁹Because you have made the **LORD**
your refuge,*
and the Most High your **habitation**,

¹⁰there shall no evil **happen** to you,*
neither shall any plague
come **near** your dwelling.

¹¹For he shall give his angels
charge **over** you,*
to keep you in **all** your ways.

¹²They shall bear you **in** their hands,*
lest you dash your foot
against a stone.

¹³You shall tread
upon the **lion** and adder;*
you shall trample the young lion
and the serpent **under** your feet.

¹⁴Because he is bound to me in love,
therefore will I **deliver** him;*
I will protect him;
because he **knows** my name.

¹⁵He shall call upon me,
and I will **answer** him;*
I am with him in trouble;
I will rescue him
and bring **him** to honor.

¹⁶With long life will I **satisfy** him,*
and show him **my** salvation.

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