

Proclaiming the Gospel

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1.18).

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

April, 2013

The Wise Still Seek Him

Vol. V.04

Is Satan Hindering the Ministry?

The ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ is oft times hindered. Sometimes a work is delayed by the Lord; other times it is hindered by Satan – according to the Word of the Lord.

Paul was clear in Romans 15.20-22 that his ministry was hindered:
Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation: . . .
For which cause also **I have been much hindered from coming to you.**

This passage is significant as we move forward to the hindering of the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ by Satan versus the Lord's delaying the work for whatever reason He chooses – of which Paul writes in the above passage.

Remember Nehemiah as he led the people to rebuild the wall in Jerusalem? Satan came through Sanballat and Tobiah to distract Nehemiah from his work so that the enemy could go against the workers while hopefully having Nehemiah at their disposal. But listen, Nehemiah was a man who walked with the Lord God (Neh 6.1-3).

Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief.
And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I [am] doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?

Nehemiah did not respond. He sent messengers as he continued the work to which he was called. He was not threatened as Sanballat took issue with him endeavoring to put him down publicly. Nehemiah was not threatened as false accusations came. Nehemiah knew that he heard from the Lord and continued walking with the Lord.

Michael, in the Book of Daniel (Dan 10.13), knew that Satan was hindering the ministry to which Daniel was called. The hindering of Michael the Archangel for twenty-one days by Satan is powerful as Satan does not play small games. Satan is in this to the death of whoever is a follower of Jesus Christ. Satan is in this to the death of whoever might come to know Jesus Christ. Satan is in this to the death of nations – anyone who gets in his way.

You who are called by the Lord Jesus Christ, take heart and continue walking in the Lord, holding high the Name of Jesus. Stay in the Word of the Lord that you shall recognize the enemy when he comes against you in all his subtle ways that look so innocent, that sound so holy – that you shall recognize workers of falsehood and deceit. Stand when even the most *holy ones* stand against you; stand, but stand on the **Word of the Lord Jesus for His glory.** Yes, stand IN the Word, the living Word, Jesus, and on the Word, the written Word, the Holy Bible.

Yes!! Satan does hinder the ministry, and he uses whoever will give him a foothold in their lives!!! Be not deceived (II Cor 11.13-15).

For such [are] false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

And no marvel; for **Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.**

Therefore [it is] no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Followers of Jesus Christ, **Awaken!** Be not deceived!

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Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31)

It is challenging to stand firm when Satan comes against us through the *religious ones/holy ones* and all who indicate they have been appointed to tell you what you are to do and not do. Remember Job and his friends? It is especially hard when Satan uses those goodly people to falsely accuse and condemn, using a name that sounds like the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, attempting to give themselves a boost in how they look to the other goodly people – who join in to endeavor to hinder and destroy the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Satan hindered the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ through the *religious ones/holy ones* in the New Testament, and he continues today. Jesus had reason to say what He did to the disciples (Mt 10.14) and the seventy (Lk 10.10-11).

But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say,

Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

The Apostle Paul in no way hinders, speaks ill of, others in the ministry; nor does he even intimate anything against others to build-up himself that others might glory in him and exalt him – although Paul is quick to correct and expose people who teach false doctrines or tear apart the body of Christ. Paul is not a person who needs a following – as we read in Romans 15.20. He is careful not to take credit for another man's work. He preaches Jesus Christ that others will come into the body of Christ to be used as they are called. He is not a person who needs to be at the center of attention and be held in high esteem as the "holy one" in a community. Again, notice that Paul is focused upon Jesus in his life. Paul is not working against others in the ministry for the Lord Jesus Christ – although others worked against him. Paul writes of those true followers of Jesus Christ. His ministry is to build churches and ordain others – not so much to edify the body that is with another's ministry. He goes to new territory where the Gospel of Jesus Christ has not been preached.

Paul writes, "lest I should build upon another man's foundation ..." Paul has a ministry to which he is called and desires that the body of Christ work together in the ministry of the Lord, each to which he is called under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Paul understands the world is large, and he desires **neither** to take another's converts under his umbrella nor to endeavor to tear apart another's ministry. He is called to go beyond the walls of any given area, and it is this that causes him to be hindered /delayed by the Lord in going to Rome (Rom 15.22).

John Wesley understood this when he said, "The world is my parish." These are giants in the Lord as they did not have a personal need (were not *needy* people), nor did they want to hinder the work of the Lord Jesus Christ by endeavoring to build-up themselves at the expense of destroying another or at

the expense of tearing apart the body of Christ – thus hindering the ministry. Paul writes about hindrances from Satan in Acts 17.13-14 and I Thessalonians 2.18; he also writes about one who preached against him in II Timothy 4.14-15.

What is significant in the Word of the Lord God Almighty in Jesus Christ is those men and women who desired with desire to enable others in the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, recognizing all who truly knew Jesus Christ.

There were times when Daniel went to his "brethren" asking for prayer for what lay before him (Dan 2.17-18) – respecting the "brethren" in their ministry (Dan 2.49) and knowing none is above another and all are under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Paul also had those in whom he knew the Spirit of God dwelled; they were his fellow-laborers – not his subordinates. Even young Timothy was his fellow-laborer in the Lord. Paul writes of the body being fitly joined together.

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [stone];

In whom all the building fitly framed together growtheth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit (Eph 2.19-22).

Let us also look at Ephesians 4.16.

From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Paul was not a demagogue; he wanted no one to adhere to him but to Jesus Christ. He knew that he needed the "brethren." Oh, how Satan comes to hinder the work of the Lord and destroy through those who set themselves above others to be used in hindering and destroying another's ministry – instead of fitting together in the body of Christ – as they should.

The Bible says, "Touch not mine anointed." Oh, people, beware. Those who spoke against Moses, those who thought they were the anointed (and many think they are), those who thought they were holy (and, perhaps, looked holy to each other), were ill advised when they went against Moses (Num 16).

Know that Satan did not win against Moses, nor did he win against Daniel's prayer being answered and the need being met in Persia. The Lord God Almighty, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob won the victory!

The victory is already won, and was won on the Cross of Calvary. Paul understood the importance of the body of Christ walking together in victory that souls shall be brought to the Lord, that the will of the Lord shall be done.