

OUR THREE FOES

By Keith Greer

Christians are faced with many "**foes**" who will seek to destroy our relationship with God. Today, I want to discuss three of these "**foes**."

The World. "Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." (James 4:4) How does the world seek to destroy us? Simply, by allowing our love for it to be greater than our love for God. Love of the world will lead men into sin, 1 John 2:15-17. Christians must see the world for what it is—a temporary dwelling place.

The Flesh. "For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish." {Galatians 5:17} Yes, we have a continual battle raging in our bodies between the flesh and the spirit. God's people must bring their flesh under subjection and practice self-control. How? Controlling our fleshly appetites, 1 Corinthians 9:27. Our desires of the flesh must be brought under the control of God's law.

The Devil. "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." {Ephesians 6:11,12} The devil is the enemy to our soul and our greatest adversary. He wants to destroy our souls and have us spend eternity with him in Hell! Old Satan is always looking for an opportunity, 1 Peter 5:8. He will lie, tempt, set traps, use discouragement and use our weaknesses to enslave us to sin. He is a powerful foe! Christians must use the sword of the Spirit to seek out the knowledge of how he works and how we can defeat him.

God knew that as His children lived in a world that was against Him, His authority, His standards and live by a much different code of conduct the way would be "bumpy." Yet, He gave us the "weapons" to defeat our adversary and all of his foes! Keep your guard up and fight on diligently! Beware of these foes and fight against them and you will defeat them with God's help! ***