

2Cor
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We have Satan's flaming arrows that he shoots. We have his efforts to destroy Christianity. We have his efforts to injure everyone who believes in Christ. And we have his wiles, we have his clever schemes. In fact in one place it speaks of Satan being transformed into an angel of light, We have both of these attitudes of Satan to contend with.

First, the flaming arrows. Perhaps never has it been greater than it is today in the world. Just this week, I believe, there were a number of people including a number of missionaries who were hacked to death with axes, In Russia it is against the law to tell children that God even exists. It is almost impossible for one who is a Christian to enter a university there. Christians are subjected to harsh persecution and imprisonment. In other communist lands there is an attack against Christianity because they know that the enemy they have is Christianity.

It was about two or three years ago when Christianity Today had an article about Campus Crusade in Nicaragua. The communist government in Nicaragua had seized some thousands of Christian tracts and had burned them all. The local workers for Campus Crusade were imprisoned. One man had an arrangement to hold evangelistic meetings in Managua; he had his permission. He told how he landed in Nicaragua and was met by official soldiers who came to send him back home. He said, I have permission from the government to hold these meetings. Oh, they said, you got that permission last week. There's a new law which says, No public religious meetings will now be permitted. He was forced to go back without even seeing the people with whom he had worked, in previous evangelistic campaigns, in Nicaragua.

We have the assault of Satan. We have his flaming arrows. They are a factor of life in the world today. And we may yet have to face them. For the last three or four years we have constantly read how the leaders of the Soviet were trying to persuade the U.S. not to develop a means for stopping missiles. And we were told we were against peace if we did not give that up. That was a great hindrance to peace for us to develop them. Time after time they tried to persuade our president to not do that. Now it has been revealed that for several years the communists have been doing the very same thing that they said would be wrong for us to do! And on a high mountain there there are three great towers on which they have been experimenting toward this objective.

Now of course if we could get the power to stop missiles, probably we would be foolish enough to do what Reagan said one day we would do: namely, turn it over to all other nations so that everyone could stop missiles. But if the Russians get it first, and they have a big headstart, we know that they will wipe out this country unless we agree to surrender to them.

The attacks of Satan. The flaming arrows of Satan. They are a fact of life. But I believe that a much more important thing is the fact of the clever wiles of Satan. Paul adds his call for the Christian's armor with with the call upon us to take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming