

15 October 2017: Preached by Preacher Clement Chew

Topic: A Study of Ezra: Cooperate with the Enemy?

Scripture text: Ezra 4:1-6

1. God's Word in John 17 tells us that there should be unity amongst the body of Christ. While Christians should live peaceably with all men, they must not cooperate with the enemies of God in spiritual matters.

2. Discernment through the Word of God is needed to identify the enemies of God. Thank God for granting Zerubbabel, Jeshua and the chief men wise discernment by disallowing their adversaries to build the Temple. Their adversaries were syncretic worshippers and there must not be spiritual cooperation at all costs. God's enemies may have a façade of friendliness, humility and a desire to seek God but Christians must stand firm on the Lord's side for we can do nothing against the Truth, but for the Truth.

3. We must never cooperate with the enemies of God because the gospel and testimony of Christ are at stake. When we cooperate with them, we are furthering the work of Satan, promoting falsehood and tainting the purity of God's work. Instead, we must be on our guards and not compromise in the work and witness for Christ.

4. Unfavourable consequences may befall us when we do not cooperate with the enemies of God. The people of Israel were plagued with lawsuits and were persecuted for 16 years. Likewise, all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. The precious faith we have received through our Saviour Jesus Christ must encourage us to press on till our Lord returns.