

*And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one:
for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, unto the ages.
Amen.*

HERE OUR LORD teaches us plainly our own vileness, and quells our pride, instructing us to deprecate all conflicts, instead of rushing upon them. For so both our victory will be more glorious, and the devil's overthrow more to be derided. I mean, that as when we are dragged forth [*to confession of the Faith*], we must stand nobly; so when we are not summoned, we should be quiet, and wait for the time of conflict; that we may show both freedom from vainglory, and nobleness of spirit. And He here calls the devil "the wicked one," commanding us to wage against him a war that knows no truce, and implying that he is not such by nature. For wickedness is not of those things that are from nature, but of them that are added by our own choice. And he is so called pre-eminently, by reason of the excess of his wickedness, and because he, in no respect injured by us, wages against us implacable war.

Wherefore neither said He, "deliver us from the wicked ones," but, "from the wicked one;" instructing us in no case to entertain displeasure against our neighbors, for what wrongs soever we may suffer at their hands, but to transfer our enmity from these to him, as being himself the cause of all our wrongs. Having then made us anxious as before conflict, by putting us in mind of the enemy, and having cut away from us all our remissness; He again encourages and raises our spirits, by bringing to our remembrance the King under whom we are arrayed, and signifying Him to be more powerful than all. "For Thine," saith He, "is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory."

St John Chrysostom,
Homily XIX on the Gospel of Saint Matthew, pp. 136–7

Pearls from the Holy Fathers ❄️ *Week of March 23–29, 2009*

ABRAMHAM, the disciple of Abba Sisoës, said unto him, "Father, if there happen to be a congregation on the Sabbath, or on Sunday, and a brother drink three cups of wine, is that too much?"

The old man said unto him, "If Satan did not exist, three cups would not be too much to drink, but since he doth exist three cups is too much."

The Paradise of the Holy Fathers,
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