

The Spirit of Falsehood

To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.

—ROM. XVI. 27.

1. All corrupters of divine truth, and troublers of the church's peace, are no better than devils. Our Saviour thought the name Satan a title merited by Peter, when he breathed out an advice, as an axe at the root of the gospel, the death of Christ, the foundation of all gospel truth; and the apostle concludes them under the same character, which hinder the superstructure, and would mix their chaff with his wheat. Mat. xvi. 23, 'Get thee behind me, Satan.' It is not, 'Get thee behind me, Simon,' or, 'Get thee behind me, Peter,' but, 'Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence to me.' Thou dost oppose thyself to the wisdom, and grace, and authority of God, to the redemption of man, and to the good of the world.

As the Holy Ghost is the Spirit of truth, so is Satan the spirit of falsehood; as the Holy Ghost inspires believers with truth, so doth the devil corrupt unbelievers with error. Let us cleave to the truth of the gospel, that we may not be counted by God as part of the corporation of fallen angels, and not be barely reckoned as enemies of God, but in league with the greatest enemy to his glory in the world.

(The Complete Works of Stephen Charnock, Vol. II, Edinburgh: James Nichol, M. DCCC. LXIV., ebook, 3)