

Beware of These Heretics

by Ignatius of Antioch

Ignatius warns against heretics and emphasizes the importance of prayer for their repentance, while highlighting the reality of Christ's suffering and the need to rely on His inner strength.

Scripture: Matthew 5:44, Romans 8:37, 2 Corinthians 12:9, Philippians 4:13, 1 John 4:1

Topics: "False Teachers", "Christian Persecution"

Description

Ignatius of Antioch warns the believers to be cautious of false teachers who appear as men but are like beasts, advising them to not only avoid but flee from such individuals. He emphasizes the importance of praying for these deceivers in hopes of their repentance. Ignatius explains his willingness to endure suffering and death for Christ, not just in appearance but in reality, relying on Christ's strength within him.

Transcript

I give you these instructions, beloved, assured that ye also hold the same opinions [as I do]. But I guard you beforehand from these beasts in the shape of men, from whom you must not only turn away, but even flee from them.

Only you must pray for them, if by any means they may be brought to repentance. For if the Lord were in the body in appearance only, and were crucified in appearance only, then am I also bound in appearance only. And why have I also surrendered myself to death, to fire, to the sword, to the wild beasts? But, [in fact,] I endure all things for Christ, not in appearance only, but in reality, that I may suffer together with Him, while He Himself inwardly strengthens me; for of myself I have no such ability.

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