CHURCHES UNDER FIRE

That anti-God and anti-Christ sentiment in the world and in our nation is growing significantly can hardly be questioned. No mention of God or of Christ is to be heard or seen in many public places, including our schools, unless used profanely. Crosses are being removed from public property under the supposed "separation of church and state" that some appear to see in our Constitution. There have been examples of cities enacting zoning ordinances that would forbid gatherings in homes for Bible studies or other religious observances, while at the same time allowing such gatherings for secular purposes

Armed attacks on worshippers in churches and Jewish synagogues has become a growing threat, not just in distant countries, but also in "the land of the free." . I read even of two street-preachers who were gunned down by a teenager who apparently took exception to their message.

The efforts of some political figures and the media to radicalize and marginalize conservative Bible-believers is becoming increasingly apparent. The public image of Christians and churches is being denigrated to the point that society has lost much of its respect for Christian values—so much so that more feel free to even deny the Christian heritage of our nation. Few seem to see the need to be subject to God's laws, preferring politically correct "tolerance."

All of this, of course, should come as no shock to believers. We know that Satan hates Christ and the inspired word of God, the Bible. As some churches continue to proclaim Christ as the one hope of salvation, and His word as the authority for faith and practice, we must expect to feel his wrath. Jesus warned His disciples, "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you" (John 15:19). The apostle John admonished in 1 John 3:1 & 13, "The world knoweth us not, because it knew him not…. Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you."   --Ron