CH. ui. 10] EXPOUNDED 77  
  
Christ is patient, “expecting ”’ the Father’s hour,  
“till His enemies be made His footstool.” There is  
then a “ word ” or doctrine, which takes up and asserts  
that waiting attitude of the Saviour. The angel of  
Philadelphia was patiently expecting the coming of the  
Lord from heaven: 1 Thess. i. 3; 2 Thess. iii. 5; Rev.  
i. 9.  
“\* ¥ also, will keep thee out of the hour of the temp-  
tation.”  
This is distinct from the promise to the conqueror,  
given at the close. Herein we find a clear answer to  
the question sometimes tauntingly put—‘‘ What is the  
use of prophecy ?” We might answer, that it has great  
present advantages, as enabling us to see our true posi-  
tion and calling, and to keep clear of many mistakes  
and delusions. But an object of most especial import-  
ance is here shown to be attained. The holders of the  
truth in this matter will be preserved from that day  
of darkness, trial, and peril which is now nigh at  
hand.  
While those ignorant of it are painting vain pictures  
of the happiness of earth close at hand, to appear under  
the ordinary operation of the causes and agencies now  
at work, the student of prophecy knows that this  
expectation will never be realized ; nay, that evil is about  
to expand itself to prodigious and overwhelming mag-  
nitude ; and that it will be girt with supernatural power.  
The Lord, in vengeance for His truth rejected, is about  
to send on the earth an energy of delusion; that men  
should believe a lie, which seals all who receive it to  
utter damnation. In belief of this, Jesus bids His dis-  
ciples, ‘“ Watch therefore, and pray always, that they  
may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that  
are about to come to pass”? (Luke xxi. 36).  
We must either suffer from the world now, or with  
the world by and by. But, if faithful testimony brings