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Excerpts from Article III of David Walker's *Appeal, In Four Articles; to the Coloured Citizens of the World, 1830*

From Article III

OUR WRETCHEDNESS IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE PREACHERS OF THE RELIGION OF JESUS CHRIST

Religion, my brethren, is a subject of deep consideration among all the nations of the earth. . . .

I have known tyrants or usurpers of human liberty in different parts of this country to take their fellow creatures, the coloured people, and beat them until they would scarcely leave life in them; what for? Why they say, "The black devils had the audacity to be found making prayers and supplications to the God who made them ! ! ! !" . . .

I remember a Camp Meeting in South Carolina. . . where was a very great concourse of people. . . I among the rest went up and took my seat - - being seated I fixed myself in a complete position to hear the word of my Savior . . . but to my no ordinary astonishment, our Reverend gentleman got up and told us (coloured people) that the slaves must be obedient to their masters - - must do their duty to their masters or be whipped—the whip was made for the backs of fools, &c. Here I pause for a moment, to give the world time to consider what was my surprise, to hear such preaching from a minister of my Master [i.e. Jesus Christ], whose very gospel is that of peace and not of blood and whips. . . .

[P]ride and prejudice have got to such a pitch, that in the very houses erected to the Lord, they have built little places for the reception of coloured people, where they must sit during meeting, or keep away from the house of God, and the preachers say nothing about it . . .