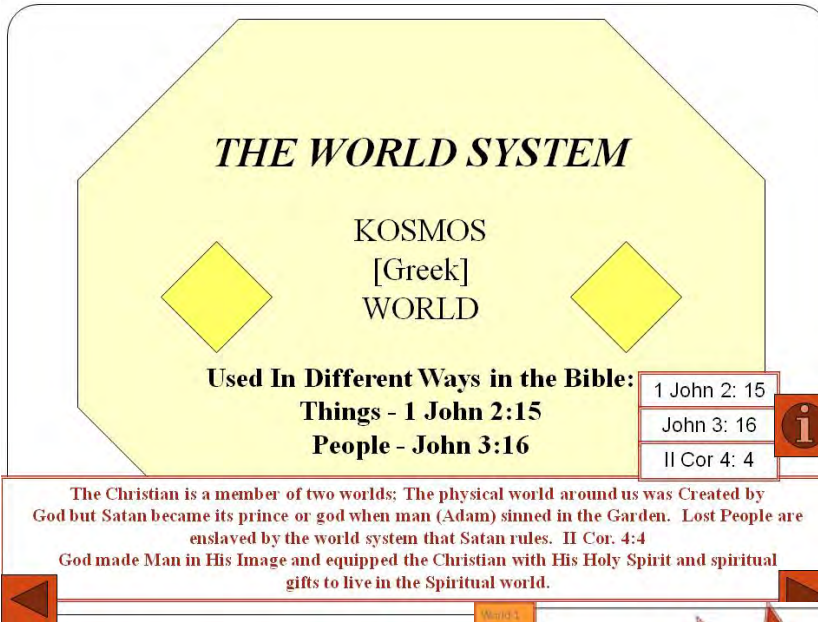


# 9. What A Mixed Up World We Live In



The Bible uses the word world in different ways. Sometimes it speaks of the people of the world and other times it is referring to physical structure and at others it is speaking of the world system made up of cultures, ethics, morals, etc.

The world we presently live in is in a “Fallen” state. Due to the “Fall of Man” as recorded in

early Genesis. Satan has become the “god of this world” according to II Corinthians 4:4. Christians become dismayed by the evil and crime in the world but that is to be expected.

The non-Christian population on the Earth is blinded to the truth of God.

**I John 2: 15**  
Do not love the (things of the) world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

**John 3: 16**  
For God so loved the (people of) world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes (trusts) in Him shall not perish (go to eternal Hell) but have eternal life (in Heaven.)

**II Corinthians 4:4**  
The god of this age (world) has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, Who is the image of God.

These basic verses pretty well sum up the tension that each Christian experiences.

1. We are warned to not get too involved in the things of this world.
2. God has provided His Grace to save us through Jesus.
3. Satan uses the things of this world to tempt us to stray away from and not depend upon God but our selves.



Their lives center or focus on *self* and they do not believe that God is relevant. Whereas many try to exercise tolerance of “religious people,” they think they are weak and use their religion as a

***Since Adam's Sin  
[The Fall of Man]***

*The World has Hated God!!*

**1 Corinthians 1:21 - Knew Not God  
John 15:18 - Hated Christ  
John 14:17 - Cannot Receive the Spirit of Truth  
James 4:4 - Enemy of God**

1 Cor 1: 21  
John 15: 18  
John 14: 17  
James 4: 4

crutch to get through life. According to the Bible, Satan enslaves this group of “non-believers” but they do not realize it. God has much compassion for them and Jesus stated that His reason for coming to Earth was to save sinners or people who were blinded to truth.

Lost People of the World, under Satan Do Not Like God, The Church or Christians

The Christian should accept the view that we have one life and our life on Earth is temporary but our real life will be in Heaven with Jesus throughout eternity.

Though we would like to see it go away, the evil and crime we experience on earth is as the Bible predicts. This situation will continue until Jesus returns

**1 Corinthians 1: 21**  
For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through its wisdom did not know Him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

**John 15: 18**  
If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first (the world system executed Christ.)

**John 14: 17**  
The world cannot accept Him (Holy Spirit) because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you.

**James 4: 4**  
You adulterous (unfaithful) people don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

Satan will use the things of this world to draw you away from Christ. Be Very Carefull

***Satan is the  
god, ruler, prince  
of This World !!***

II Cor 4: 4  
John 12: 12 – 31b  
John 14: 30

*The World Around the  
Christian is Under  
the Power of  
The Evil One*

I John 5: 19

•Satan has unbelievers blinded to the Truth.  
•This is what Jesus Saved us from - Satan's enslavement.  
•Can you Identify evidence of the Evil One's Control of this World??

to Earth the second time.

While on Earth, all people will fill their lives with something. Christians are warned to not substitute objects and things of this world for God. This is called idolatry or worshiping false gods.

Worldly objects are not sinful. It is our attitude toward objects of the world that can be sinful. For example, money is not sinful but the Bible tells us that the love of money is the root of all sorts of sin.

The same can be said for cars, music, knowledge, art, etc. Christ expects

World 3

**II Corinthians 4: 4**  
For the god of this age (presently in the world) has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

**John 12: 31b**  
Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.

**John 14: 30**  
I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me, but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father commanded me.

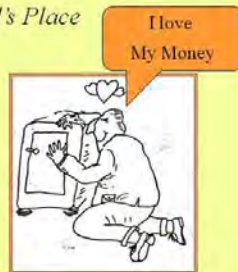
**I John 5: 15**  
And if we know that he hears us – whatever we ask – we know that we have what we asked of him.

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**Keep Yourselfs from False Gods**  
[Idols]

*An Idol is  
[Anything that Occupies God's Place  
In Your Heart -  
Takes First Place  
In Your Life]*

**I John 5: 21**  
**Matthew 16:26**



Christian to have the correct attitude about objects and to never substitute them for His place in their lives.

Though Christians are citizens of Earth briefly (perhaps 70 to 90 years), they are not to call this place their home. Christians are to actively help those that are blinded by Satan to

“See” Christ in us. Our primary purpose on Earth is to carry on the work that Jesus started when He was here. We are to actively work through our Church to help other people. Were this not the case, God would have taken the Christian to Heaven immediately when his sins were taken away.

World 4

**I John 5: 21**  
Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

**Matthew 16: 26**  
What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?

An idol is anything that is considered more important than God. This usually is in the form of some physical (or worldly) object (such as a car, money, a person, peer acceptance, etc.

Would it be worth owning everything In this world if you lost heaven?

U

## Christians are Not to be OF the World

John 15: 19



*EKKLESIA (Greek)  
God's Called Out Ones - Church*

**God has set us aside from the World as a separated people to reflect His Character to the blinded slaves of Satan.**

The seventeenth chapter of John is called Jesus high priestly prayer for Christians. In this section of our Bible, Jesus prayed that we stay here on Earth for a while and that we be protected

from Satan.

Children are too often told that Satan is a frightful character that is ugly and determined to bring great harm to them. The harm is

World 5

**John 15: 19**

If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

This earthly life is very temporary. We are really residences of two worlds – earth and heaven. Now is the time to lay up eternal treasure. Though you will draw the hatred of this world upon you, it will be eternally worth it.

## Christians Stay In the World To Help Others

Matthew 5: 14 - 16



Why didn't God take the Christian to Heaven immediately after being saved?  
He has chosen to limit his work on Earth to the work He does through yielded Christians.  
Were you drawn to God through the witness of another?

certainly true but Satan is a master at disguise. He presents himself as an attractive spirit that offers the things of this world as instant gratification, pleasure, riches, popularity, power, etc.

Recall in Luke 4:5 - 7, Satan stated that he could award anyone that obeyed him with the things of this world. He still offers (and grants) instant gratification for stealing, lying, cheating, coveting, etc.

World 6

**Matthew 5: 14 – 16**

You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

The purpose of light is to dispel darkness. God has placed a radiance in each Christian so that they may dispel the darkness of this world

*Jesus Prayed That Christians Be Left In The World But Protected From the Evil One.*

John 17: 14 - 26

John 17 is Jesus' prayer for us.

What Satan fails to tell is that all people are accountable for their deeds and must face judgment one day. So many are deceived and commit sinful deeds to gain the short time benefit that Satan offers from the world system.

Satan is not to be feared by Christians because we have the

protection of God's Spirit. We are instructed in the Bible about equipping ourselves to ward off his attacks and that we have a superior Spirit in us than the spirit of the world (Satan) (1 John 1:9).

The Christian is to live a balanced life of devotion to Christ and work to earn basic needs of living here on

Earth. The balance comes in not becoming so involved in worldly pursuits that we

World 7

**John 17: 14 – 19**

I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

Sanctification is being set aside from the world and maturing in Christ. All Christians should be in the process of being sanctified on a daily basis.

*Christians are Not  
to Fear The World;  
Christ Has Overcome the  
World for Us.*

JESUS HAS POWER OVER SATAN.

Ephesians 6: 10 - 18  
I John 4: 4  
John 16: 33  
John 14: 30

Ephesians 6: 10 - 18 Instruct Us to put on the Full Armor of God  
I John 4:4 States that He who Lives in Us is Greater than he that lives in the World

World

edge God from the central focus of our life. He is to be Lord and no worldly idol is to ever take His place. Satan in his deceptive ways will try to reason with us that we need that extra overtime pay so we can afford things of the world that we really don't need; we just want them. He also

prepares his temptations in custom made packages that are tailor made to match our areas of weakness. Papaw tells his class that he is never tempted to rob a bank! Worldly temptations come to him in packages that are more difficult for him to resist. Fortunately, the Bible tells the Christian in I Corinthians 10:13, "No

**Ephesians 6: 10 - 13**

Finally, be strong In the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggles are not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

**I John 4: 4**  
You dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who in in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

**John 16: 33**  
I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

**John 14: 30 - 31**  
I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world (Satan) is coming. He has no hold on me, but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me.

*Christians Are Not  
To Be Weighted Down  
Or Entangled in the Cares  
Affairs, Business of THIS Life.*

Fortune  
Excitement  
Business  
Money  
Position  
Pleasure

Hebrews 12:1  
II Timothy 2:4  
Luke 21:34

Dr. Luke quotes Jesus as he tells us not to get involved with worldly cares and affairs  
Anything that Distracts Us from a constant vigil of anticipation of Jesus return is a hindrance to our spiritual life.

*temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."* The Bible is clear that each person must make a deliberate

decision about which he will serve. The choices are the things of this world or God. Too many Christians try to do both and this cannot be. Christians are instructed to lay up treasure in Heaven where it will not decay or be taken away. For where a man's treasure is will be where his affections are.

**World 9**

**Hebrews 12: 1**  
Therefore since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

**II Timothy 2: 4**  
No one serving as a soldier get involved in civilian affairs – he wants to please his commanding officer.

**Luke 21: 34**  
Be careful or your hearts will be weighted down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close in on you unrepentantly like a trap. For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth.

We Christians must remain constantly vigilant else the evil one (Satan) will ensnare us with temporary worldly rewards.

**U**

**At Which Altar Will You Serve ?**

**Altar of the World**      **Altar of God**

**Man Cannot Serve at Both !!**

Luke 16:13  
Matthew 6:24  
Joshua 24: 15

**Too Many Christians try to be of the World and please God  
Joshua 24:15 Exhorts the Israelites to Choose Who they will Serve**

The Christian is to be content with the life provided to him by God. We misuse our

World 19

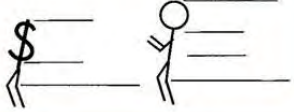
**Luke 16: 13**  
No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

**Matthew 6: 24**  
No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

**Joshua 24: 15**  
But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

It is our natural inclination to serve someone or something.  
We must make a deliberate choice about who we will serve

***DO NOT  
LOVE  
MONEY,  
Be Content.  
Do Not  
Pursue Riches***



1 Timothy 6: 7 - 19  
Matthew 6: 25 - 34

Christians are not to be occupied just trying to gain more wealth [money]  
Greed for riches is an indication of little or no faith that our Heavenly Father will fulfill His promise to provide all of our needs.

time by pursuing worldly riches. Christians are promised to be supplied enough to make it through life while temporarily living in the world.

World 11

**1 Timothy 6: 7 – 14**

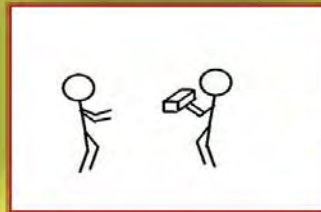
For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many grief's. But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Be diligent and stay focused on Jesus. Satan will try every trick of his to distract you with good things of this world that will cause you to stray away from the best that God provides.

Abundance should be shared with those that are in need. Sharing is one of the most effective ways to impress non-Christians that Christianity is real. Recall the subject of stewardship in the chapter

on the Church. Some are provided much so they will have enough to share with those with little.

**God Is Pleased If We Share Our Possessions**



1 John 3:17 - 19



He wants Us to Depend Upon Him rather than our Self and the World

World 12

**1 John 3: 17 – 19**

If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in His presence.

It brings pleasure to God when Christians share their possessions with others. This includes their knowledge and time as well as material goods.

Following the session on The World System, continue daily Bible reading and prayer (pray

for your government leaders and folk you know that are spiritually blinded by the evil one. Pray for the person you performed the good deed for. Include your family members in your prayers (this is intercessory prayer.)

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