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SALVATION

If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, or aren't sure and would like to become one, then you need to believe that Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God, that he was God who became a man, that he lived a sinless and perfect life, keeping the Law of God perfect in every way, that he kept faith perfectly, and that he was crucified on that cruel cross for your sins, mine and the entire world- he died for our sins! His death on the cross paid the penalty fully, one time for all sins that we have ever committed and that we will ever commit. He died; he went down into the bowels of the earth, even into Hell, and was raised from the dead on the third day in a resurrected, eternal body. He ascended back into heaven, was seated at the right hand of God, and is now Lord over heaven and earth. He is coming again to judge the world, to raise the dead, where he will give an eternal, resurrected, glorified body to everyone that has believed on him as their Lord and Savior, and to establish his kingdom one earth.

You come become a Christian right now as you read this, by personally placing your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior; believing that he is God's only begotten Son, that he died on the cross for you and that he was raised from the dead and is now seated in heaven at the right hand of God the Father. *“Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..” Acts 16:31a* And when you do trust Christ, and Christ alone, as your Lord and Savior, then go to God the Father in heaven in prayer and tell him so. Tell him that you have believed on his Son, thank him for his Son, and thank him for forgiving your sins and saving you! *“That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord”, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.” Romans 10:9,10* *“For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Romans 10:13. “Therefore, being justified by faith (declared righteous), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 5:1*

The World

Intro:

In the Old Testament the concept of the world, or the *kosmos*, is never used, only the words the heavens and the earth, but in the New Testament it is referred to many times. And it can refer to several things depending on the context: the earth itself, the inhabitants of the earth, the universe, and the system of control that Satan uses to control the people of the earth and keep them in bondage.

In our study we are going to approach the kosmos from the standpoint of the system that Satan uses to exercise total control over the people of the world, our past relationship to it, our present relationship to it and how it relate to us.

A. Definition

Basically *kosmos* referred to an arranging of things, of putting things in an order; the arranging of things into an organized order. It was used of women adorning themselves with jewelery, etc.. It was used of rowers seated in their place aboard the ship and was a technical term for the placing of troops on the field of battle.

In it was the idea of the sum of individual things gathered into a totality which brought out the idea of a system, a group of interacting, interrelated, or interdependent elements forming a complex whole. It was the legal term for the state of the Spartans. From this came the idea of the state, or a political system developed for an order of life to be imposed on people to organize and bind them into a political state.

The affairs of the lives of men are divided into three categories: the **politics** of the city-state, the **religion** of that city-state, and the **economical system** of the city-state. The Kosmos, or the World System, is the system that Satan has established utilizing all three of these concepts to organize and bind the people of this planet under his dominion. There is another concept that has come about in the past few decades that we could add to that list and that is the **media**. Through radio, TV, the Internet and the printed press Satan is now able to control his subjects even more than ever before.

The purpose of these three things, which make up his system, is **control!** If you control the **religion**, you control the people. If you control the **economical system** and its money supply, you control the people. If you control the **politics** of a nation, its legislators and laws, you, once again, control the people. And one of the most effective means of controlling people in our times is through the **media**. If you control the various medias of the world, then you control the flow of information. **People then will know only what you want them to know**, thereby controlling them once again.

B. Jesus Christ Created the World.

“He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.”

John 1:10

It was Jesus Christ who spoke the word that brought the world and the entire universe into existence. This was done through the power of the Holy Spirit. When it refers to the world it is speaking of the earth.

He not only created the world, but all the celestial beings in heaven as well. *“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.”* Colossians 1:16

C. Christ Created Adam and Eve to Rule Over the World.

“And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.” Genesis 1:28

God created the earth for man and man for the earth. In the beginning his original intention was for man, both the man and the woman, to rule over the entire earth. Whatever they wanted to do they could do on the earth.

All this may sound simplistic, and something that most believers know, but it is important that we get everything right in the order that God established so we can understand what has happened and why in our understanding of what the World System is about.

D. They Lost Their Dominion Due to Sin.

“And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.” Genesis 3:17-20

This is important because Adam and Eve's dominion over the world was dependent on their obedience to the Lord. When they sinned against God and listened to the serpent, the devil, they hearkened unto Satan and not the Lord.

We see them now expelled from the Garden thrust out into a world that is no longer subject to them, but hostile! No longer are they rulers over the earth, but are vagabonds, ex-rulers without portfolio, exiles from the Garden and something else has happened. The one who tricked them is now ruling over what was once theirs!

E. Satan Has Now Become the Ruler Over the World and Its People.

*“And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him **all** the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, **All** this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.” Luke 4:5-7*

It was bad enough to lose dominion of the World, and all that went with it, but something that they never realized at that time, and I'm sure that most do not realize today, is that their children and grandchildren would now come under the rule of this evil being. Which reminds us as parents that we need to be very sure that we live our lives according to the Word of the Lord lest our children come under the rule and influence of the devil.

In this passage we see that **all** the kingdoms of the World were handed over, *paradidomi*, to the devil. As we know this was due to Adam's failure in the Garden. And note, it is **all** the kingdoms of the World! Some may think that Satan rules over only some of them, but here we see that **he rules over all of them!**

We also note that he also has the authority to hand over the rule of these various nations, or kingdoms, to whomever he chooses! We also see that the prerequisite for being given **the authority to rule is based upon the worship of Satan!** A rather sobering thought when one considers the political heads of state throughout the World!

This concept is kept hidden from the masses, but is accomplished through the mother goddess mystery religion, as established by Cush and Nimrod, and through free masonry. Occasionally a nation is begun based upon Christian principles, as was America, and a leader who is a Christian may rise to power, but all this will pass in a short time goes Satan replaces the leader with one of his own, or destroys the Christian principles that the nation was founded upon by his evil.

F. Politics, Religion and Economics.

“And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness. 1 John 5:19

It was right after the flood that Satan began his system on earth using Cush, a descendant of Ham, and Cush's son, Nimrod. Cush was the prophet of Lucifer and headed up the religious arm of Mystery Babylon, and Nimrod headed up the political arm of Babylon and was the world ruler of Satan's World System over the earth.

In so doing, Cush became the original false prophet, and Nimrod became the original world ruler, or as we would refer to him today as the anti-christ! The same set-up and the same system that we find at the end of time in the book of Revelation with the first beast being the false prophet and the second beast being the anti-christ. The father and son were not only the head of this Satanic system, but they were also the grand master and the interpreters of the Mysteries.

From Babylon this ancient system spread down to Egypt where the Pharaohs and priests presided over it, to ancient Greece and to Rome, which has presided over it ever since. Basically the system followed two lines: the philosophical side through Egypt down through various secret societies to our present day free-masonry, and the other more

priestly line through Rome down to the present day of Romanism.

The **political** arm of the World System is where Babylon controls the laws of a nation enforcing total control over the people. Draconian laws, loss of freedom, the erosion of God-given rights and a system that is basically anti-God, anti-Bible and anti-christ is what characterizes the politics of Mystery Babylon.

The **religious** arm of Babylon is obviously anti-christ. It is anti-Bible, anti-grace, anti-christ and anti-gospel. Wherever it goes you will find the loss of religious freedom and eventually the persecution of the church and Christians. The religious arm of Babylon controls the political arm of Babylon to effect the religious side of Babylon.

The **economical** arm of Babylon is definitely anti-free enterprise. Workers only exist to line the pockets of those high up in the system of Babylon. Excessive controls, regulations, laws, etc., are implemented to choke out individual initiative. It also brings in the removing of gold based currency and replaces it with debt and paper currency, with those at the top benefiting from the system.

This is not an in depth study of this concept, but merely to note it in passing to help us to see what we were born into by natural birth here on Satan's planet; and **what God has taken us out of due to the second birth**. This is the system that Satan has established to control the people of the world, and when it says that, "*the whole world lieth in wickedness*", in the original it says that, οἰδαμεν οτι εκ του θεου εσμεν και ο κοσμος ολος **εν τω πονηρω κειται**, the whole world *lies under the control of the wicked one*.

G. Christ Came Into the World.

*"He was **in the world**, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not."* John 1:10 *"And this is the condemnation, that light is come **into the world**, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."* John 3:19 *"And Jesus said, For judgment I am come **into this world**, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind."* John 9:39

This, and other related passages, refer to the incarnation of Jesus Christ. Christ was the Father's uniquely born Son, born of a virgin, total humanity and total deity. Christ's entrance into the World refers to God becoming a man through the virgin birth.

Now Christ had come to the earth many times before in the Old Testament; these are called theophanies, or Christophanies. In the Old Testament Christ took the form of a man, but did not become a man. But in the virgin birth the second member of the Godhead became a man and lived here on earth with us as a man!

H. Christ Was Not Of This World.

*"And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am **not of this world**."* John 8:23

In the original we have, εκ του κοσμου τουτου. In this passage Christ is addressing the

Jews of Israel and he say that they are **of this world**, but that he isn't. "*Of this world*" is *ek tou kosmou toutou*, which signifies an exit from within something with which there had been an earlier connection to denote an origin or source of something. Christ made it clear to all that his origin was not of this world, but that he had come from heaven.

He clarifies that he had come from above, that heaven was the origin from where he had come from, but that they were from beneath. The significance of all this also includes the idea that the Jews, whom he was addressing, **belonged to the World System of Satan**. **Christ does not belong to this World!**

In our study we will need to realize the fantastic separation that exists between all believers in Christ and the World System of this planet run by the fallen angel Lucifer. **Our Savior was not of this world and we are not of this World! We do not belong to this World! And when we die, we will leave this World to go to be with our Savior!**

I. Christ's Kingdom Is Not Of This World.

"Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence." John 18:36 απεκριθη ο ιησους η βασιλεια η εμη ουκ εστιν εκ του κοσμου τουτου ει εκ του κοσμου τουτου ην η βασιλεια η εμη οι υπηρεται αν οι εμοι ηγωνιζοντο ινα μη παραδοθω τοις ιουδαιοις νυν δε η βασιλεια η εμη ουκ εστιν εντευθεν

Christ made it very clear also by the use of the emphatic negative, *ouk*, that **his kingdom did not originate in this world, neither did it belong to this world**. In fact, the kingdoms of the world belong to the devil as he said in Matthew 4 and Luke 4.

God's form of rule over his subjects is a kingdom and he has made Jesus Christ not only Lord of lords, but King of kings. And Christ is ruling over this vast dominion from on high at the right hand of his Father. Whenever someone believes on Jesus Christ as his Savior he or she is made citizens of this heavenly kingdom which will be brought to earth at the Second Advent.

The Christian needs to be constantly reminding themselves that they do not belong to this world, to the people of this world, nor to the governments of this world, for we belong to something else that is more wonderful than the mind can imagine. The reality of this will be apparent at our death, for when the unsaved die they will be dragged down into Hell, but when we die we will be brought up into this heavenly kingdom! And as subjects, we also need to be submitting ourselves to the rule of King Jesus through the intake and application of His Word to our lives!

J. Christ Is The Light Of This World.

"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." John 9:5 *"I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness."* John 12:46

The word for light here is *phos* and refers to the light of day, or the radiated light that lightens things up so we can see. The sun is the source of light in the material world that

provides the light that enables us to see things. But Jesus Christ is the source of light in the spiritual world. **Christ is the light of this world because he is incarnate truth!**

The essence of spiritual light is truth, the truth of God's Word. As he said, I am the way, the truth and the life. While the essence of the world is darkness; that is, lies, deception, the absence of God's truth. When you think about it **darkness is really the absence of light!** And so it is with this world system, the darkness of the world is really the absence of Bible Doctrine.

When the Bible says that Christians are the light of the world, it is in the context of Christians being light bearers that shed the light of God's Word on the world, that is, providing that they are taking in the Word of God in their own lives! **Truth is light and without the truth there is no radiated light!**

And so it is also with the local church. The local church is not to be a place of entertainment, emotions, fun and games, programs, religiosity, and all the other things we see going on today, but that they are to be places that **light is radiated from the pulpits of America by the teaching of God's Word!**

K. Christ Is The Savior Of This World.

“And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.” John 4:42 “And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.” John 12:47

God sent his Son into the world to bear the penalty of the world's sins by dying on the cross and being raised from the dead, but he cannot and will not save anyone against their will. They must make the decision to believe on Him as their Savior. *“And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.” Acts 16:31*

In both John 12:46,47 we have *hina* plus the subjunctive used to show us the purpose of why Christ came into the world and it was for the purpose of saving the world. But we see that the condition laid out for this to happen is faith in Him! That the one believing in him would not continue on in darkness. Forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation is a gift of God's grace to all apart from any works of man, and because it is of grace then it has to be on the basis of faith on our part. So that when we **believe** in Christ as our Savior we are saved and he becomes our Savior.

L. Christians Are In The World.

*“Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were **in the world**, he loved them unto the end.” John 13:1 “A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born **into the world**.” John 16:21*

We have first of all the concept that the world exists; it exists in our time; it existed in

Christ's day; and it has existed ever since Adam sinned against God. The use of the prepositions *en*, *ek* and *eis* help us orient to all this in our own minds.

We entered **into** this world, εἰς τον κοσμον, *eis ton kosmon*, by physical birth. *Eis* giving us the idea of actual penetration or entering into an already existing concept. Through physical birth we were now one with the world, for we are **in** the world, εν τω κοσμω, *en to kosmo*. Jesus Christ entered into this world through physical birth as well, where God became a man, and he is telling his disciples that he is going to **exit out of** or leave this world and go back to the Father, that “*he should depart **out of** this world unto the Father*”, εκ του κοσμου, *ek tou kosmou*.

So when it talks about our being in the world, and our having entered into the world, it is referring to our actually present status quo denoting our physical existence in this present life. **But this is only a temporary existence for at the end of physical life we will leave our bodies behind on this planet and depart to be with God in heaven! It is a present condition, but not a permanent one!**

M. Christians Are Not Of The World.

“If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.” John 15:19 “I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gravest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.” John 17:6

If we were of the world; assuming the condition or argument that we were of, or belonged to the world, then the world would love, *phileo*, us. That is, there would be a rapport between us and the world, but there isn't! There exists a wall of separation between the believer and the people of the world. And try as hard as some believers do to be one with the world, they can't! The world recognizes that we are not one of its own.

And the reason for this is because we belong to Jesus Chris! The Father has given us to his Son and his Son has chosen us. In fact there is a love and hate concept here. If we did belong to the world system and the people of the world, then the world would love us as one of its own! But instead of loving us it hates us! It hates us because we belong to Jesus Christ. So one of the things that we need to keep before our minds as believers in Christ is that we definitely do not belong to this world.

N. Christ Leaves The World.

“Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.” John 13:1 “Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.” John 14:19 “And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.” John 17:11

Christ left his throne in heaven where he was seated at the right hand of the Father to

accomplish the Father's will on earth. After having accomplished all of the Father's will he has left the earth to go back to the right hand of the Father where he had been seated from all eternity past.

God became a man, he was born of a virgin, he lived a perfect sinless life, he fulfilled the old covenant, he instituted the new covenant, he lived the perfect life of faith, he originated the faith rest life of trust in the Father's plan, power and provisions, at the end of his life he died on a cruel cross to pay the penalty for our sins, he was raised up from the dead in Hades, he received a resurrection body, and when he went into heaven his body was glorified by the Father with the glory that he had before he came to earth. And he is returning to earth once more to raise us up to bring us with him.

O. Christ Overcame The World.

*“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have **tribulation**: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33*
ταυτα λελαληκα υμιν ινα εν εμοι ειρηνην εχητε εν τω κοσμω **θλιψιν** εξετε αλλα θαρσειτε
εγω νενικηκα τον κοσμον

Christ is speaking on a theme that Christians are all too familiar with – pressure! The word **tribulation**, *thlipsis*, actually means pressure. *Thlipsis* refers to any internal or external thing that presses upon the soul causing distress or stress.

Technically **pressure** would refer to things that are external, while **stress** would look at the internal concept. **Pressure is inevitable, but stress is optional.** This we know, but oh how often do we fail to keep the pressures of life on the outside out where they belong?? How often do we let them become stress in the soul? How often have we wished that the pressures would just go away, or we could live in a place that was less stressful.

Believers have known for many years about the Great Tribulation that is coming on the world, but what it is actually talking about is the time of great pressure! Well **the pressures of life come from the world system!** In the *kosmos*, in the world system Christ tells us that we definitely will have pressure! It comes with it and there is absolutely nothing we can do to change it!

But there is a way that we can handle it that's why he said these things I'm speaking to you for the purpose that you might have peace in this world, and that comes through faith in his Word and the filling of the Holy Spirit. He says, “*be of good cheer*”, or “*be encouraged*”, using the word *tharseo*. *Tharseo* meant to take courage into the heart, en plus courage, in the heart. And the basis for this, or how we become encouraged once again is by listening to what he said, “***I have overcome the world!***”

Christ came into the world as a man, suffered like no other man has ever suffered, tested like no other man was tested, attacked viciously by his own people, attacked incessantly by Satan himself, he even had his own Father and the Holy Spirit forsake him and he died! Yet he was raised from the dead and is now back in heaven! Christ was victorious over the world, the perfect tense of *nikao* tells us that it was a completed action with results that continue on as an existing condition. And because we belong to Christ we

also share that position of victory over the world! **We're not losers; we're winners!**

P. The World Hates Jesus Christ.

“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.” John 15:18 εἰ ὁ κόσμος ὑμᾶς μισεῖ γινώσκατε ὅτι ἐμὲ πρῶτον ὑμῶν μίσησεν

Let's make no mistake about the use of words here, the word for hate is *miseo* and it means to **hate**. The world hates Christians and it hates Jesus Christ. In fact the Lord tells us that it hated him first, that it has hated him from the beginning.

We see a type of the world's attitude toward Jesus Christ in Cain in the beginning. *“But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very **wroth**, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou **wroth**? and why is thy countenance fallen?” Genesis 4:5,6*

The word for *wroth* is *charah*, חָרָה , and it referred to an intense burning anger, but multiplied many times over! Cain was livid, he was furious with Jesus Christ! Cain's emotional state toward the Lord was one of **hatred**. From the mental attitude of pride comes the emotion of bitterness, then intense burning hateful anger, on to verbal sins and then overt violence.

The emotion of hate, which is what *miseo* is, is the emotion behind murder! And the Jews in Israel hated him and tried to murder him. It was after the Lord came back from being tested by the devil in the wilderness for forty days that he went to a synagogogue to announce that he was the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy. *“And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.” Luke 4:21*

But it was shortly after that they were trying to murder him! *“And all they in the synagogogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, (thumos, intense anger), And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong. But he passing through the midst of them went his way,” Luke 4:28-30*

Q. The World Hates Christians.

“And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake.” Luke 21:17 “Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.” 1 John 3:13

Once an individual believes on Christ as their Savior, and has passed from death unto life, and from the dominion of Satan into the kingdom of Jesus Christ they are no longer accepted as one of the world's own. They now are not only *persona non grata* but are viewed with hate. If the world hate you is the first class condition of if, if it's true and it is true! It's true the world hates Christians!

And yet there will always be those dumb Christians who want to love the world and think that the world loves them! It's probably human nature to want to be liked and accepted, but the reality is that we will never be accepted once we have believed on Christ! And the sooner we recognize and accept that; the sooner that we see that we are not one of them;

the sooner that we see that we are pilgrims passing through this world and this life on our way to be with Christ the better off we'll be!

R. False Teachers Are From The World.

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.” 1 John 4:1-5

False doctrine has been a problem ever since the Church Age began; it was even a problem in the time of Israel. But where does this false doctrine come from? It comes **from the false teachers who belong to the world system!**

In the Church Age we have the chain of command that God established here on the earth for the communication of his Word and the doctrines that proceed from it. There was the head of the Church, Jesus Christ, then the Apostles that Christ commissioned, and then the spiritual gifts of Pastor-Teacher who were over the various local churches.

God provided the Bible, the inspired Word of God, the Holy Spirit and the men who had the communication gifts that enabled them to exegete and teach Bible Doctrine. So where did this false doctrine come from? It came from the world system that is presided over by the devil! These false prophets are false teachers sent by Satan teaching false doctrines, and along with them go demons; these are the spirits mentioned here in the passage. Christianity has been under attack for 2,000 years by men from the world system who try to pervert its teachings and subvert the work of Christ. The Christian needs to be aware of that and recognize it when it happens.

S. The Jews Belong To The World.

*“Then said the Jews, Will he kill himself? because he saith, Whither I go, ye cannot come.” John 8:22 “And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: **ye are of this world; I am not of this world.**” John 8:23 και ειπεν αυτοις υμεις εκ των κατω εστε εγω εκ των ανω ειμι υμεις **εκ του κοσμου τουτου εστε** εγω ουκ ειμι εκ του κοσμου τουτου*

This may seem to be a very strange thing to say, for after all wasn't Israel God's nation, and wasn't the Jewish religion of those days God's religion, and weren't those who conducted God's religion doing God's will? But Christ sets this all straight by saying that they were of the world, *ek tou kosmou*, that they belonged, or were a part of the world system!

It was many of the Jews who were claiming that Jesus was insane and that he was demon-possessed! *“There was a division therefore again among the Jews for these*

sayings. And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him?" John 10:19,20

Religion and the religiosity that goes with it is a part of the world's system. It is one of Satan's brainchild's that he uses to enslave the minds of men on earth. God did not establish a religion on earth; he established a relationship with fallen, sinful man through his Son, Jesus Christ.

Even though the sons of Israel were the chosen people of God in the old testament, not all of Israel is Israel. Jesus Christ was an Israelite, born of the tribe of Judah; the apostles were Israelites and all of the original Church were Israelites who believed on Christ as their Savior. But not all in Israel did believe that Jesus was the Messiah! They chose to cling to the religion of Israel, which was just another religion among the many religions of the world. It was an outer shell with no life inside it.

In fact Christ gives this sobering statement in Revelation 2:9, *"I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan."* And again in Revelation 3:9, *"Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee."*

You say, "Aren't the Jews God's people?" They were! But now the Church is! And the Church is made up of men and women from every tribe and walk of life on earth! It is made up of men and women who believe on Jesus Christ as their Savior! *"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy."* 1 Peter 2:9,10 Notice that we are now the people of God!

T. The Corruption Of The World.

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." 2 Peter 1:4

The word for corruption is **phthora** and it meant to bring something into a worsened condition. Wood rots, metal rusts, food spoils, teeth decay; you get the idea. And that's what the world system does to everyone! And that was what the world was doing to us before we got saved.

The world system, as presided over by the devil, is designed to bring humanity down into an ever spiraling decay of immorality and everything else. And it is only through faith in Jesus Christ and living our lives in the filling of the Holy Spirit, Bible Doctrine and life in the new nature that we can escape all this.

America of the last forty years is a billboard of this phenomenon. As this country has

turned from the true Gospel and the teaching of the Word of God it has spiraled downward into drugs, debauchery, arrogance and insanity. What once was a queen on a hill has become a slut along a highway.

U. The Pollution Of The World.

“For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.” 2 Peter 2:20

The word for **pollution** here is an interesting one. In those days they didn't have the flush toilets that we do today. So when one did their business at night they would use a chamber pot. To dispose of it they would simply throw it out of an upper window! But if some unfortunate individual might be walking underneath and receive its contents on himself he would cry out, “*miano!*”

The word here is *miasma* and it spoke of excrement, or diarrhea. Figuratively we are looked at as wearing a robe through life. The idea is to keep our robe clean and undefiled. It is our involvement with the corrupting influence of the world system that defiles it, though. It is like meeting someone who has position, influence and the money to have nice clothes. You meet them on the street and they're so lifted up with pride because of their jewelry, fine clothes, money and position in the community, as they stand there talking to you. Then as they turn to leave you, you notice that they have gone to the bathroom on themselves and soiled their robe. That's *miasma*.

And that's what we do to ourselves when, and to the degree, that we are involved in the world system. In a sense the world system is a cesspool and the more we walk in it, the more we defile ourselves in life. The diarrhea concept also refers to the problem of bitterness in the soul, which the world engenders.

V. The Lusts And Pride Of The World.

“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.” 1 John 2:16

The lusts of the flesh nature, the lusts of the eyes, or what the eye sees it wants or lusts after and the boasting of life; all these things are found in and a part of the world system and they are definitely not of the Father.

Lusts, *epithumeo*, is the intense desire of the flesh for gratification. It's like the itching of poison oak; you can scratch it, but it'll be back. The sinful nature of fallen man lusts constantly after just about everything you can think of, and it is in the world system where you can find whatever it is that you are lusting after!

Our eyes are the gate of the soul; whatever the eye sees it wants for itself. Enter in the technology of television. At the advent of television the masters of human manipulation, (advertising), were now able to stimulate man's lusts, through the eye, to get man to want

to buy his products. **To the place today that most people are totally consumed with gratifying their lusts. What they see, they want. What they want, they buy. They live to consume! Their existence is centered around consumption!**

And the pride of life is the **boasting** (αλαζονεία) of life. **People love to brag about themselves.** They love to talk about who they are, what they've done, where they've gone, who they know, what they have and everything else; it's bragging. Now some are unsophisticated about it and love to shout it from the highest hilltop, while others are more clever and do it with a t-shirt. But it's all the same; it's bragging to say that they're bigger, better, prettier, smarter, stronger, richer, more educated, etc., than you!

W. Love Not The World.

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” 1 John 2:15

Love not the world, neither the things of the world is a command given by the Father to all his children here on earth. But tragically in the past few decades many of God's people have gone out lusting after the things of the world like the pagans do.

Instead of flocking to the churches that teach God's Word, they run to the malls. Instead of loving the things of the Word, they love the things of the world! Instead of loving the brotherhood, they love the world and all that it has to offer. Instead of serving the Father's will in their lives, they serve their own lustful purposes. We need to constantly remind ourselves that we do not belong to the world, that the world is not our home, that **we are pilgrims passing through this life** on our way to our heavenly home, and so are not to become entangled with the things of this life.

X. A Friend Of The World Is An Enemy Of God.

“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.” James 4:4

God is not our enemy in this matter, but by being friends with the world we have made ourselves an enemy of God. And we ask ourselves, how could that be? Am I not saved? Do I not belong to God? How can I now make myself an enemy of God simply by being a friend of the world?

The word for friend is *philos* which refers to rapport, where one has an harmonious relationship and attitude with the world system. And it's not about having money or position. It's about the mental attitude that the individual has in these things. You can be poor and be a friend of the world, and you can be rich and not be one.

The world is an extension of the thinking, plan and policies of Satan. He set it up and he presides over it. So when we love the world we are loving what he has created. The world is also the entity that murdered our Savior! So when we are loving the world we are loving that which not only hates God, but murdered his Son! And why do we love it?

Because in it we can gratify the lusts of our flesh!

Y. The World Is Passing Away.

“And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.” 1 John 2:16

The word for *passing away* is *parago* and is the word for a parade. Now we have all seen parades in our lives with the bands and floats, maybe we were in some of them ourselves. But the concept surrounding this word is the processional of the mother goddess religion of Babylon where a likeness of her was at the beginning of the parade with all sorts of people following behind. This concept is still practiced today south of the border, in some parts of America and throughout many of the Mediterranean countries.

We can condense it down to our times with floats highlighting each decade. In the forties we had the WWII float with all the veterans on it. In the fifties float we have had rod cars, bobby soxers and people having fun. In the sixties floats we have all the long haired hippies smoking dope. In the seventies float we have the women's lib movement. In the eighties float we have all the yuppies. In the nineties float we have money, materialism and arrogance. In the 2,000 float we have the New World Order people. And somewhere at the end the final float will be the antichrist riding in it with all his adherents singing his praises and the dispensationalists standing there saying that he's not the real one. And there we are standing on the sideline watching all this go by, the bands, the floats and the people, as they go to their destruction. And after it's all over, and there's nothing but the silence and the leaves blowing down the street, we will enter into God's kingdom.

Z. We Have Overcome The World.

“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.” 1 John 5:4

Nikao, to conquer, to be a victor, to overcome, to win. Christians are not losers, they're winners. Even if they fail miserably in life by not following the Father's plan for them, and many do, they still end up winners. Why? It is because of our faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior!

It goes back to our faith in Christ! When we believed on Christ as our Savior God caused us to be born again. We became new creatures in Christ and we share his position, his righteousness and his victory over Satan's evil world system. The most important thing in life has already happened to us; we have been transferred out of Satan's dominion over the evil world system and brought into God's kingdom.

As believers in Christ we have constantly be orienting each day to our position in Christ and our relationship to this world. **We are not of this world! We do not belong to this world! This world is not our home! We are passing through this world on our way to God's kingdom that he has prepared for us!**

And as such, **everyday we need to be thinking of ourselves and pilgrims and**

strangers passing through a foreign country on our way to our eternal abode.

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.” Hebrews 11:13

And as we journey down this highway of life, following the path that Christ has made for us, we will go through many towns, villages and cities, with all sorts of people inhabiting them. **We are not to allow ourselves to be caught up in their customs, pursuits and lifestyles**; we must keep ourselves separate from them so that we don't become defiled by them. They may do them, but we can't! *“Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;” 1 Peter 2:11*

Pastor Mike