

The Practicality of Redemption (3)

Our World and Its Culture

Introduction

- A. The Bible makes a distinction between the Church (Body of Christ) and the world (as a system of culture). In the new birth we are taken out of the world and made a member of the Church (John 15:19; 17:12,14,15; I John 4:4-6)
- B. The world in which we live (system of culture) is largely sinful and under the subtle and powerful influence of Satan (Eph. 2:2,3). To honor God and live for His glory we must understand the world and relate to it correctly.

I. The Meaning of the Term "World"

Wherein in time past ye walked (lived) according to the course (blueprint) of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air (Satan), the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience, among whom also we all had our conversion (daily life) in times past in the lusts of the flesh fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. Ephesians 2:2,3

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. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof, but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. I John 2:16-17

Comment: By "world" we do not mean the good and right in science, medicine, art, literature, etc. The word refers to a way of life that is self-seeking, and sensual in the area of values, priorities, goals, and pleasures. It is apparent that science, for example, can be good in itself and then misused because of "worldly" values and goals. The same thought would apply to almost anything.

II. The Believer's Relationship with 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

Comment: The believer has been chosen by Jesus Christ to receive His gift of eternal life. When we were born again we were taken out of the world. We have been given a new relationship with God and therefore, new values, priorities, goals and pleasures.

III. The Believer's Provision Regarding the World.

Who (the Lord Jesus) gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father. Galatians 1:4

God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by who the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world. Galatians 6:14

Comment: In His work of redemption and Lord Jesus sets us free from the power of the world and Satan's subtle slavery through the world. In order to understand and practice that freedom, we must pray for discernment and the willingness to live in harmony with the Bible.

The control the world reasserts over the believer comes through ignorance and self-centeredness. And, once we live according to the worldly standards in values, priorities, goals, and pleasures -- then the sin will reign over us and we will be enslaved again.

IV. The Exhortations Regarding the World.

I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable and perfect will of God. Romans 12:1,2

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world... I John 2:15

Comment: We must obey these instructions each day: choose to live by Biblical standards and not be involved in the sinful culture about us. To live according to self-centeredness, sensuality, and pride will ruin us.

V. The Warnings Regarding the World.

He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word and he becometh unfruitful. Matthew 13:22

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

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof, but he that does the will of God abideth for ever. I John 2:17

Comment: We cannot live according to the pattern of the world and not be ensnared in its "care." Such a way of life will "choke" out the value and power of the Word of God and render us fruitless.

For the believer to live a worldly life is to give some measure of his life over to the control of Satan. Such a believer is described as a spiritual "adulterer" before God.

The satisfaction given by the world is highly temporary and does not meet our basic needs.

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