

PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS

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THE WORLD IN EPHESIANS

The LORD JESUS said, "Ye are not of the world." You are in it, but not of it. "As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world." So we are in it, but not part of it; thank GOD for that, else we would be partakers in the judgment that is upon it.

There are six worlds:

1. The world of finance.
2. The world of society.
3. The world of pleasure.
4. The world of education.
5. The world of business.
6. The world of religion.

These six worlds are all described in that one verse, "Fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind." (Ephesians 2:3). We sometimes forget that there is such a thing as the "lust of the mind." The mind wanders off after all sorts of things that shut out GOD.

This world may be compared to mercury or quicksilver. Just when you think you have it, it is gone. You don't have it. Most folks are trying to get his satisfaction out of mathematics. Or you might ask the beautiful girl in the theatre who drank carbolic acid after the fifth encore. She attained the highest place in the amusement world, but it did not satisfy her heart. Ask those twenty-one millionaires who committed suicide. No doubt, all would tell you that the world is a robber, a deceiver. All the world wants is what you have. That is all. It cares nothing for you.

Pilate gave the people their choice between two men, JESUS or Barabbas, and Luke tells us that they chose Barabbas. Now Barabbas was a robber. He was also a murderer. Anything you accept other than CHRIST is a robber and will take your good health, your gifts and talents and leave you with nothing but a six foot grave and a Christless dark eternity.

CHRIST is a Giver and not a robber. He gives peace, joy, rest, salvation, and pardon. He puts our name in the Book of Life. He gives a home in glory, a mansion with the Father, all the heart can want. But Barabbas was a robber and the world is a robber.

The world takes your beauty, your good name, all you have, but it wants you no more. All it wants is what you have, but CHRIST wants you. He is not so much interested in what you have, for He said to the rich young ruler, Sell all you have and give it to somebody else, but give yourself to Me. He wants you, your heart, your love, your affection, your soul. He wants you yourself.

The world is like a cafeteria. It offers you anything you want, but you pay for it when you go out. There are 233 brands of religion. You may help yourself to any of them. Some of them tell us there is no GOD, no hell, and that when you die you are just like a dog. Some tell us that GOD is so sweet and kind and just that He will take unsaved sinners into Heaven; that CHRIST is not the SON of GOD, and that there is no need of the blood to put away sin. One may have just about anything he wishes in the way of religion, but he pays when he goes out and he pays for everything he got from the counter. The devil will give anything one wants without CHRIST.

In the "lust of the mind" he offers all kinds. The LORD wants our hearts and minds. "My son, give me thine heart." "Let this mind be in you, which was also in CHRIST JESUS." The world, the flesh and the devil also want our minds and hearts. The world offers fame and position in athletics, music, education, art, science, and wants you to spend hours in attaining your goal. You can spend all your time in these fields without CHRIST. You have no time for Him. But if you give your heart to the LORD JESUS and spend two hours a day in prayer, you are said to be a subject for the asylum or the psychoanalyst. But if you play bridge all day long you are only an enthusiast. No one is called a fanatic except those who go in for the things of GOD. You give yourself to the devil and people will admire you for it.

GOD has placed CHRIST, "Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come" (Ephesians 1:21). CHRIST JESUS is better and bigger, grander and sweeter than anything and everything that this world can give us. GOD has made Him so and you and I should make Him so. Do you want joy? Find it in the LORD JESUS. You will never lose Him. If you joy in earthly possessions, you may lose them. If you joy in your home, it may be broken up. Death comes or bitterness comes and breaks up the home. Far above everything this world can give you is CHRIST JESUS and when you get old and gray and nobody wants you around, He says, "Even to hoar (gray) hairs will I carry you." He will hold you close to His heart when nobody else wants you. He is far above everything this world can give. He is LORD of lords, and KING of kings.

~ end of chapter 7 ~

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