

Conquering the World Bible Study: HUMANITY, THE GENERAL PUBLIC

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The understanding of the term "world" has been grossly skewed in Christian thought, particularly in the Western World. God's intent for its use has moved from a range of different meanings within Christian culture to one primarily "negative" concept - of which we will uncover and dismantle. That one meaning has distorted the way we view and interact with humanity, understand creation and the universe; and how we interpret its use and meaning in the Holy Scriptures.

What if changing our view or expanding our view of this simple word could impact the trajectory of our ministries for eternity?

What if it could impact our respond to creation, sin and death and abundant life so profoundly, that our efforts to reach the lost and preach the Gospel would be amplified for the better? Would you be willing to change your perspective after full counsel is presented? In this series, we are conquering the "WORLD" by digging into the true meaning of its use in the scriptures and aligning our hearts to the heart of God and the ultimate purpose of salvation -- reconciliation. It is our prayer that you come to know how one seemingly small word - when used in proper context - can completely change how we understand God's love for us, our view salvation, our interactions with one another and the way we represent and present our faith.

SOME SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: Ephesians 2, John 3:16, 2 Corinthians 4, Psalm 4:3, John 17:15, 1 John 4, Romans 12, 1 Peter 2, Revelations 11:15, Revelations 18:4, 2 Corinthians 5-7, Colossians 3, Mark 2:14-17

Revelation 3:20-21, *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.”*

Revelations 2:26, *“The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations...”*

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In this Bible study, we will look the WORLD God loves. The purpose of this session is to clearly identify how we should view HUMANITY as a whole. Again, our goal here is not dig deeply.

- I. **For the purpose of this Bible study, we are going to look at two additional uses of the word WORLD in Scripture.** One is humanity, which refers to all of mankind; and the

second one is “the public,” which refers to our own specific communities or spheres of influence. Of course, the people of God is included in both of these groups.

- a. **John 3:16** – “...for God so loved the world (**HUMANITY**) that he gave his only begotten son...”
- b. **John 4:42** – following the woman at the well’s salvation... some Samaritans said this to her: “And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of this saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the **Saviour of the world (HUMANITY).**”
- c. **John 7:3-4** - 3 So His brothers said to Him, Leave here and go into Judea, so that [a]Your disciples [there] may also see the works that You do. [This is no place for You.] For no one does anything in secret when he wishes to be conspicuous and secure publicity. If You [must] do these things [if You must act like this], show **Yourself openly and make Yourself known to the world (GENERAL PUBLIC)!**
- d. **John 18:20** – **Jesus answered him, I have spoken openly to the world (GENERAL PUBLIC).** I have always taught in a synagogue and in the temple [area], where the Jews [habitually] congregate (assemble); and I have spoken nothing secretly.
- e. **Acts 17:6** – “But the unbelieving Jews were aroused to jealousy, and, getting hold of some wicked men (ruffians and rascals) and loungers in the marketplace, they gathered together a mob, set the town in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring [Paul and Silas] out to the people. 6 But when they failed to find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brethren before the city authorities, crying, These men who have turned **the world (GENERAL PUBLIC)** upside down have come here also...”
- f. **Mark 16:15-16** - And He said to them, “Go into all the world (**THE GENERAL PUBLIC**) and preach the gospel to every creature. “He who believes and is **IMMERSED** will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

II. ANOTHER ASPECT OF THE WORLD FALLS IN THE ORDER OF EVIL

- a. Spirit of the Age – World Systems
- b. Evil in Men’s Hearts
- c. Unregenerate Mankind
- d. Satan’s Effects on this World

Only when we can differentiate between what God means when HE SAYS WORLD can we can begin to *properly relate* TO THE WORLD as believers.

Christ returned to the Father, but he declared that we would be sent out into **WORLD (THE PUBLIC)** as sheep among wolves.... He said we are in the **WORLD (general public)**, but not of the **WORLD (system of this world)**...