

Conquering the World Bible Study: UNREGENERATE MAN (EVIL), WORLD SYSTEM (WISDOM OF THE WORLD), SPIRIT OF THE AGE (PRINCE OF THIS WORLD)

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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 at the meaning of the term WORLD as it relates to the unregenerate man, the world system and the spirit of the age. The purpose of this study is to help us separate THE WORLD GOD LOVES from the WORLD we are constantly and consistently admonished to hate.

I. UNREGENERATE MAN

- a. The people whom God so loved (John 3:16 – It includes ALL)
- b. The one for whom the Lamb took away all sin (John 1:29)
- c. The people whom Christ reconciled to himself (2 Corinthians 5)
- d. Those dedicated to carnality, the lusts of the flesh, living for SELF PLEASURE
 - i. **James 1:14** AMPC, “*But every person is tempted when he is drawn away, enticed and baited by his own evil desire (lust, passions).*”
 - ii. **Jeremiah 19:1**, “*The heart of the undegenerated man is desperate and wicked.*”
 - iii. **Hebrews 10:26**, “*If we deliberately go on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no further sacrifice for sins remains, 27but only a fearful expectation of judgment and raging fire that will consume all adversaries.*”
 - iv. **WE CANNOT DISCARD CHOICE! Even in a fallen world that is under the power of the wicked one!**
 - v. **The unregenerated man is ONE CHOICE OR DECISION away from salvation, not several works away.**
- e. **God LOVES (COVENANTS - AHAVAHs) people!**
 - i. He covenanted with HUMANITY through Christ... he is just waiting on HUMANITY to realize the gift. These are the eyes through which we must see the Lord!
 - ii. **2 Corinthians 5:15** NIV, “*And he died for ALL, that those who LIVE (have received Christ) should no longer live for themselves (LIVE IMMersed) but for him who died for them and was raised again.*”
 - iii. **We are living for Christ now – and share His mission of reconciliation.**
- f. **Romans 1:14-15:** “*I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. So, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.*”

II. THE WORLD SYSTEM

- a. All the activities of men that are direct, negative results of the fall – it includes the systems that we entangle ourselves in every day.
- b. The wisdom of men instead of the wisdom of God
- c. Perversion, things in direct opposition to God
 - i. The wisdom of this world
 - ii. Man’s plans versus the plans of God
- d. **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.

III. DOMINION OF THE PRINCE OF THIS WORLD

- a. The evil that the world is under as a result of the fall and the actions of the Adversary (spiritually & morally degraded culture)
- b. **The Spirit of the Age**
 - i. **1 Corinthians 2:12**, “We have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.” *Diabolical systems put in place to oppose GOD!*”
 - ii. **Promotes idolatry, merchandising, the loving of self, following false Gods, living selfishly, division, hatred, racism, etc.**
 - iii. **2 Timothy 4:3**, “For the time will come when men will not tolerate sound doctrine, but with itching ears they will gather around themselves teachers to suit their own desires. So they will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.”
- c. **John 12:31-33**, “In response, Jesus said, “This voice was not for My benefit, but yours. **Now judgment is upon this world (unregenerate humanity); now the prince of this world (the spirit of this age) will be cast out.** And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself. He said this to signify the kind of death He was going to die.”
- d. **1 John 4:1-6**, “Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, **because many false prophets have gone out into the world.** This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. **This is the spirit of the antichrist (THE SPIRIT OF THE AGE)**, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in **the world.** They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.”

IV. SO NOW, WHAT DO THESE SCRIPTURES MEAN:

- a. **John 16:28**, “I came from the Father and entered the world (unregenerated humanity); now I am leaving the world (the earth) and going back to the Father.”
- b. **1 Corinthians 5:9-11**, “I wrote you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people. I was not including the sexually immoral of this **WORLD (unregenerated humanity)**, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world (**the earth, creation**). But now I am writing you not to associate with anyone who claims **to be a brother (BELIEVER)** but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a verbal abuser, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat....”

- c. **John 18:38**, *"My kingdom is not of this world (world system). If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."*