

I Corinthians First Things First VIII notes

Last time we saw that the Bible refers to fallen angels that are not bound at the center of the earth as principalities, powers and rulers.

--This refers to geographic areas that these entities hold sway over.

--They are referred to this way on numerous occasions in the New Testament: **Ephesians 3:10; 1:21; Ephesians 6:10-12; Colossians 1:16; 2:15; 2:10**

The Battle is over the souls of human being, nothing else.

Our adversaries in this battle are threefold or twofold depending on how you see this.

--Satan, fallen angels and demons or just Satan and fallen angels.

--Remember, even though traditionally that church for 1500 has seen fallen angels and demons as synonymous, the early church and Jews did not see it that way.

--Either way, the Bible does not make a clear delineation so neither can we be hard and fast about our conclusions on this.

--For our purposes I'm going to follow how I feel about these things and work from the perspective of demons being separate from fallen angels and are the spirits of the dead Nephilim (which was the conclusion of the early church.)

--Do not let me think for you! We are naturally lazy and when someone comes along who acts smart and says things that we haven't thought about before, we are swayed.

--Unconsciously, that is part of the reason you are here this morning or are listening in— "the Pastor is going to think for us, so we don't have to"

No; learn to think for yourselves, learn to think biblically.

--This means you must be consuming large amounts of Scripture daily.

--Do not trust the opinion of person who does not major on the Word of God...this includes your own opinion!

--Instead of looking into what others think on any verse or topic, learn to think for yourselves by using a good concordance or bible cross reference looking for every place that word or topic shows up in the bible.

Speaking of letting others think for us, these enemies of ours would love to think for us—in fact, that is their real goal.

--Thinking for people is our enemy's biggest objective or industry.

Satan rules the world: I John 5:19-20

--Satan does not rule the world through immorality, human trafficking, sex industry, drug industry or debauchery; these are only a smoke screen for his real industry.

--Satan's primary project and by far the greatest industry sending people to hell **is religion.**

--**I Corinthians 11:14** – He's disguised as angel not a drug dealer!

--Another way to see religion: something that shapes the way we think "as a man thinks so is he" – these enemies are not dumb!

False religion is the most predominant destructive force on the planet: 1 billion are under the deception of Islam; another billion under the deception of Hinduism and their demon worship; ¾ billion in the deception of

Buddhism; a billion + in false Christianity—Christians by default “I’m not Muslim or Hindu, I’m Christian” but they don’t care to go to church and have no visible evidence of faith in Jesus.

--Be very careful what you read, watch and who you listen to—we vet our pastors and teachers as we should, but we will randomly let people who are unvetted speak into our lives as authorities = *this is the devil’s playground*.

I John 5:19 -- I think many of us have failed to realize that there is something that the Devil is in total control of.

--What is the “world”? – It can’t be the planet because the earth is the Lord’s and fullness thereof--the flow of History also belongs to God.

World = an invisible system that pervades the human situation and is totally in the enemy’s control.

--It is false religion but it is more than that; it is a true force that controls how we think and is powerful enough to move us and effect our lives in every way if we let it.

--To the degree we yield to this system is the degree to which the enemy has control over us.

--**Colossians 2:8** – Christians are truly in danger of being sucked into this system every day.

--**I John 2:15** --There is a pervasive system out there that excludes the system of God.(Love of the Father).

This pervasive system is just makeup that the devil has put on reality for the purpose of deception.

--The Greek word for world is “kosmos”— We get “cosmetic” from this word—it means to make order out of chaos.

--**Galatians 1:3-4** – The purpose for which Jesus died was to deliver us from this present evil age; this is inherent in our salvation.

A further definition of the “world”: satanically planned system that pervades the earth that, among other things, gives us a false system of values.

--Kosmos = “order” – a fake system of what is important, what matters, what’s valuable, what’s great, what’s success.

--It is intentionally formulated to insure that you never get there, you never arrive, you always strive, always 6 inches under water/chasing your tail your entire life.

--Who set up the system that says “he’s got it made” and “he doesn’t have it made”?

This World system says: Having a lot of things and a big bank account means you’re great.

--Really? Somebody is trying to think for us!

This World system says: A title or earned degrees will make you be somebody.

This World system says: You have to be able to do something impressive to be valuable.

--So, our world’s heroes are the athletes, rock and movie stars.

--We think like this in our churches: people who do something up front are more valuable in the church than anybody else? Not true!

This world system says: You have to look a certain way to be great or valuable.

- The guys on top in this system are as insecure as the guys on the bottom; the tall guy are as much as the short; rich guys just as much as the poor; the pretty just as much as the ugly (who decides that anyway?)
- This system is designed so that you never arrive which keeps you chasing after something that isn't there.

3. I Jn. 2:15-17a –You can't derive identity from anything in this system; our identity is only in God and this is not from Him.

- V. 17a** – funeral language “so-and-so has passed away” – if your Heart is in the worldly system then you are always at a funeral because your heart is in something that is passing away.
- Songs that were popular aren't any more, clothes, house design or car design that was the big thing isn't anymore, because this system is always passing away.
- If your heart is in this system then you are always at a funeral emotionally.
- If your heart is in the system you will be distracted from the system that is real – the kingdom of God and the will of God.
- What's the answer to a false value system and a false basis of acceptance? **I Jn. 5:19-20**

What you need to see = Son or Daughter of God—that is the highest position that any person could hold in the universe

- You can't add a hairdo to that, a tan, car, house, income, or title.
- Pray to God to receive a revelation of who you really are in Christ.
- Why do you think Scripture records prayers like these? **Ephesians 1:17-19; Ephesians 3:14-19**
- He's just praying that we would know who we are and what we really have—that's all!
- IT is the truth – the image you have trying to live up to is the illusion.
- Make yourself a card “John Doe – Son of God”

If we could only grasp this truth, we won't need another thing or another title to make us somebody.