

Introduction

Welcome to *The World at Enmity with God* – Part 1. I'm Michael McPherson your teacher. I'd like go over some things you should know prior to starting the class. On the LLG website class page you will see several assignments for this class. Each assignment can be done on a weekly basis.

Also, the transcript of this lecture is posted on the class page. This a 2-part lecture. The transcripts of both lectures include the chapter and verse of scriptures I will refer to throughout the presentation.

After you complete each assignment please share your thoughts, questions and comments on the Forum discussion page. You can interact with other students as well. When you click on the Forum page you will be asked to register.

I will email students to see how everyone is doing. And if you would like, I can schedule a live conference call to talk directly. Just email me and let me know. If you registered, you already have my email address. Please feel free to email me with any questions, feedback or concerns.

Introduction

This lecture series along with the previous lecture series, *The Fall of Man* is critical for understanding the Gospel of Jesus Christ and God's so great salvation. We cannot fully understand or appreciate the significance and majesty of the Lord's mercy and gift to mankind until we understand the true condition and predicament of every man, woman and child born unto the face of the earth.

Understanding the world we live in, why it is the way it is, God's view of the world, and how we are to live in the world, is critical, not only for understanding the doctrine of salvation, but also to help you grow into the satisfaction, joy and fullness of Jesus Christ.

Overview

I'd like to start with a brief overview and background of what we will discuss then talk about the objectives for the class.

In 1 John 2:15 the Apostle gives a strong warning to believers; "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." In James 4:4 we then read that the world is at "enmity with God," which means it is hostile and opposed to God.

The Apostle James then says if any believer is a friend of the world, meaning if anyone has affection for the world, he or she becomes an enemy of God.

This now begets the question, what is "the world" as described in these scriptures. And what is in "the world" that believers are strongly warned to avoid. And not only avoid, but the Lord Jesus tells us in John 15:19 that the world will hate his followers as it has hated him.

So, it is important on many fronts for us to understand this concept of “the world” as described in 1 John and the New Testament.

Learning Objectives

The objectives for this class are:

Define “the world” as described in 1 John 2:15

Understand each component of the world

Understand the Lord’s view and judgment of the world

The World

The world as used in 1 John 2:15 can be defined in 5 parts. There is the (1) planet earth itself, the land that has plants, animals, an atmosphere and oceans. It is where we reside. Next, (2) there is an unseen dimension, things that are of a spiritual nature that affect and influence humans and life in the physical dimension.

Then, there is man, (3) created in the image of God and placed on earth. Next (4) there is what the Scriptures refer to as the works or deeds of man. How man conducts himself individually, socially and towards the Most High. And finally, (5) the world can be defined by the artifacts and things produced by man over the course of history. Let’s look at each aspect of the world we have just described.

Man

In *The Fall of Man* lecture we discussed the events that happened in the Garden of Eden with our foreparents Adam and Eve. We established that because Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, all the generations of humans born thereafter, which includes you, me and every modern man, woman and child, were born with a sin nature.

The sin nature is a corrupted spirit cut from the same fabric as the Devil. And it is this spirit, within man, that controls his desires, affections and personality. Thus, born with a sin nature, all humans in the Scriptures are called “children of the Devil.” (1 John 3:10)

Man

Every person is born already condemned because of his corrupted, unholy spirit. The Lord has said “the soul that sins shall die,” (Ezekiel 18:4) and no man is “good.” (Mark 10:18, Psalm 14:3, Psalm 53:3) From the sin nature of man, according to the Scriptures, comes every manner of evil desire. (Romans 1:29) The same seed of evil found in the vilest criminals and sadistic monsters in history, exists in every person on earth. But for the grace of God, who restrains sin and evil, the entire world would be in chaos.

The only hope for mankind, therefore, as we previously discussed, is the atoning sacrifice and gift of life offered by Jesus Christ. The Lord puts it this way, “unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3). In other words, a person needs a new spirit, one without the corrupt seed if he is to gain eternal life. For nothing unholy can live on holy ground.

The Unseen

In Revelation 12:9 it states, “And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.” And in Revelation 12:12 we read “...But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”

Throughout the entire Scriptures we are told there are unseen forces at work on earth and in the lives of men. (Ephesians 3:10) The devil has setup an entire kingdom here on earth, with a hierarchy of demons and spirits. The Apostle Paul warns believers; “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this world's darkness, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” (Ephesians 6:12).

We will delve into this topic in more detail. However, for now we can say the world, as described in 1 John includes this entire dimension of unseen, spiritual forces of evil.

Artifacts

Throughout the entire history of civilization man has created inventions, cities, culture, financial systems, music, governments, commerce, institutions, technology, medicines, entertainment, drugs, foods, political systems, monuments, weapons, machines, and a multitude of things to satisfy the needs of the people.

For purposes of this lecture we will call these things artifacts; objects and systems made by the hands of human beings. Artifacts, therefore, are an important aspect of the world as they have defined the eras of human history and reflect the needs and imagination of man.

Earth

In Genesis chapter 1 we read of the Lord's marvelous works in the creation of the heavens and the earth. And He said it was all good. Adam and Eve were told to be fruitful and fill the earth with children, and rule over what God had created.

Thus, the earth, the habitation of man, we can say is part of the world as described in 1 John.

Works

John 3:19 – “And this is the verdict: The Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness more than light, because their deeds were evil.”

("work") is a deed (action) that carries out (completes) an *inner desire* (intension, purpose) - Google

More than anything else, when the Scriptures refer to the state of the world, it highlights the conduct of man towards his neighbors and towards God.

The works or deeds of man result from the desires of his heart. If a righteous man desires to please God, his deeds often were acceptable to God and his neighbors. If a man desired to please his own heart, he paved a path to destruction and death.

Works

For the Scriptures tell us that out of the heart of man come murder, lies, theft, adultery, and all manner of evil.

We'll now dive a little deeper into each of these five aspects of the world the Apostle has warned us "not to love." Let's start with the unseen spiritual forces of evil.

Spiritual Forces of Evil

In Revelation chapter 19 it describes the major evil forces on earth that will be judged at the end of the age. It also gives us insight into the kingdom of the devil and his angels, also called demons and evil spirits.

There is Satan, the devil, who gives power and authority to three main spiritual forces in his kingdom; Babylon, the Beast, and the False Prophet. And under these entities are a legion of smaller demonic spirits. In the Old Testament we read of the worship of demons called Baal, Moloch, Ashtoreth and several others specific to local customs in the nations surrounding Israel. In today's society, around the world, we hear of literally hundreds of demons, represented by carved idols, worshiped by the nations.

Let's look at the first power, the devil, also called Satan.

Satan

Satan is described as the accuser of God's people which means he is against the people devoted to the Lord. He is the enemy of God's people, constantly seeking those he can destroy, ruin and kill. (1 Peter 5:8)

He is also called the Great Deceiver, he who leads the entire world astray – in other words he leads people away from knowing God, away from accepting Jesus Christ and the Lord's so great salvation. (Revelation 12:9). He does this by blinding the minds of unbelievers to God's Word. And he blinds them to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To blind means he clouds their understanding of the Word of God. (Luke 8:12) Unbelievers fail to understand and grasp either the existence of Jehovah God, the wrath of God upon sinners, or the deity of Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul tells us that Satan is the god of this world. (2 Corinthians 4:4) He is the head of a kingdom of evil spirits that have great power to control the thoughts and actions of men.

Babylon the Great Prostitute

Under Satan is a powerful spirit called, "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations." (Revelation 17:5) When the scriptures talk of harlots, prostitution, whoredom, fornication or adultery, most often it is in a spiritual sense. Those guilty of spiritual prostitution, also called fornication, have had spiritual intercourse with something evil. They have given their affections, desires, faith, sacrifice and worship to idols, false gods, or men. Why? To acquire things they covet.

Just as a prostitute in the physical sense gives away his or her intimacy to another in exchange for money, the spiritual prostitute gives away affections and worship in exchange for something they desire.

When the one who prostitutes himself or fornicates is one of God's people, he is also called an adulterer. He has given himself to the worship of another god (false god), in addition to the Lord Almighty- who demands faith and trust in him alone. That believer has broken the marriage covenant between he and the Lord.

Babylon the Great Prostitute

Therefore, Babylon is called the great whore, the evil spirit behind all that seduces and entices men into fornication and adultery. The personification of covetousness, Babylon stirs up the passions of men to pursue the greed and lusts in their heart which leads them to idolatry (worship of worthless things) and the worship of false gods and demons.

In their pursuit of false gods and worship, men have committed abominations. In the Scriptures we read of human sacrifice, the sacrifice of one's infant children to demons to receive blessings and favor. We read of licentiousness (lawless, immoral) conduct and all manner of blasphemies (profanity against God) in the worship of false gods and idols.

And behind it all is Babylon, a powerful force that entices, encourages and then to those who succumb to its allurements, controls the minds and actions of its worshipers. For all idolatry ends in the worship of a demon and the devil.

Babylon the Great Prostitute

Man, by nature, has a spirit that seeks to fulfill vainglories (excessive vanity, pride in oneself), lusts and greed through the possession of things, fame, power, wealth, good fortune, and pleasure. Babylon feeds these lusts and appetites through sorcery and allurements (which are things that fascinate, charm – i.e., shiny objects that tempt man). Allurements can take the form of luxury items, slaves, fine things, gold, money and even other people. (Revelation 18:11, 18:23)

Man, who was made for God, to do God's will, gives his spirit, his heart, his affections to idols – things made by the hands of men or their imagination. The Lord calls this idolatry – for behind the pursuit of self-centered desires for things, money, luxury, pleasure and boastful pride over one's possessions, position or achievements, are evil spirits that are glorified when one succumbs to their desires. Therefore, these evil spirits are in essence worshiped. Thus, the Scriptures call covetousness idolatry, the worship of demons and evil spirits – that unseen force which is behind every idol which seeks to draw men into fornication and adultery.

Babylon the Great Prostitute

The Scriptures further state the kings (leaders of the nations) of the earth, powerful men that glory in the wealth and beauty of their nations, have fornicated with Babylon. (Revelation 17:2, 18:9) This means the nations are engaged in economic and political systems in which profit, riches, materialism, vanity and the pursuit of wealth are worshiped.

And not only do the leaders of the world fornicate with Babylon, the Scriptures say Babylon "rules" over the kings of the earth. (Revelation 17:18) This means Babylon has dominion in the hearts of world leaders. Covetousness and pride and egotism have become their master and god.

Babylon the City

Not only is Babylon personified as a spiritual force, depicted as a woman in the Scriptures, it is also called a place. There was the literal Babylon which existed thousands of years ago. Then there is a mystical place, an unseen land called Babylon in the Book of Revelation. Thus, Babylon we can say has a dual nature: it is the great spirit of covetousness which also embodies a land.

Babylon, the unseen land or city, in Revelation 18:2 is called a habitation of demons, the dwelling place for "every unclean spirit." This mystical place stretches across the world and touches all the lands and nations of the earth. (Revelation 17:15) And within this Babylon exist abominations, that which God calls beasts and absolute evil. (Revelation 18)

Babylon the City

Such absolute evil, legions of spirits hostile to God Almighty, hateful of God's people, has manifested itself in whole nations throughout history. In ancient Rome, ancient Babylon, ancient Israel, China, Germany, and other nations where mass killing and government condoned persecution of God's people has taken place, is witness to the emergence of Babylon on earth. (Revelation 17:6, 18:24)

The Lord confirms this in Revelation 18:24, and Luke 11:51 when we learn that all the shed blood of the righteous, starting from Abel in the Book of Genesis, to the prophets of the Old Testament, and the martyrs of Jesus Christ, as well as the blood of all those slaughtered on earth, (through war and murder) will be charged, on the Day of Judgment, to Babylon.

Come out of Babylon

In Revelation chapter 18 we read that Babylon, that great spiritual force of idolatry, uses world systems of trade and commerce to propagate greed through luxury items, gold and fine goods. And thus Babylon has laid snares, or traps in everyday world systems, to capture men and lead them into idolatry and condemnation.

It is in this context we read that the Lord calls His people to come out of Babylon.

Revelation 18:4 – “Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues;”

The call of God to His people is to come out of Babylon. But what does this mean, in relation to “love not the world?”

Come out of Babylon

In Babylon, all the abominations (things detestable to God) of the earth – which are the lusts of the flesh and the lusts of the eye, is embraced, practiced and glorified. As a reminder, the lusts of the flesh and lusts of the eye include fighting, gossip, discord, jealousy, hatred, anger, prejudice, greed, killing, sexual immorality, cheating and more.

In history, we have seen Christian business people support slavery, for the sake of profit and gain.

In politics, we see hatred, anger, discord, and fighting, by professing Christians, in the pursuit of position, power and victory.

The savagery of the Roman arena that featured battles to the death and slaughter of men for amusement, has transformed to movies and entertainment that Christians love.

Come out of Babylon

The American Dream, the principle that says the pursuit of happiness, prosperity and materialism is the right of every man – a dream that is opposed to the commands of God Almighty which state the pursuit of man is to be the glorification and happiness of God– is the dream for many a Christian. (Jeremiah 45:5, Matthew 6:25-34, Philippians 4:19, Hebrews 13:5, 1 Timothy 6:6-10)

Vulgarity, intoxication and lewdness that once was shunned in society, is now accepted as individual freedom and artistic expression by many a Christian.

“Come out of her my people!” cries the Lord God, “lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues;” “Be holy for I am holy,” commands the Lord thy God. “And do not make yourselves unclean with any of the swarming things that swarm on the earth.” (Leviticus 11:44).

Come out of Babylon

The last part of this verse in Leviticus 11:44 calls for wisdom. In the spiritual, the creatures and swarming things referred to are the demons and evil spirits of Babylon. The Scriptures are abundantly clear, when a believer partakes in the things of Babylon, or has affection, is friends, or supports Babylon, he has committed sin. He has fornicated with evil. He has given permission for the unclean, that which God hates, to come unto him.

In summary, Babylon is a great evil that seduces the hearts of men, world systems and whole nations into covetousness which is idolatry, an awful sin against the Lord. And it is also a dwelling place of demons that incite the lusts of the flesh, murder of God's people, and the slaughter of men.

The Beast

The Beast, as described in Revelation chapter 19, is a major spiritual force that empowers man's desire to be like God. (Isaiah 14:14) The Beast personifies the absolute completion of man's rebellion against God – his desire to be worshiped as if he were the Most High. (Luke 4:7) The Scriptures state Satan gives his power to the Beast who possesses kings and leaders of nations that have become drunk on their power and wealth. (Revelation 13:4)

He whips up their spirit of pride to where the king feels he is a god, and above reproach. We read of the King of Tyre (Ezekiel 28:2), the King of Babylon (Isaiah 14:14) and Pharaoh of Egypt, as examples of leaders who likened themselves to the Most High.

Then we read of a final world leader who will appear before the coming of Christ, that will make all the world bow down and worship him. And all that refuse will be put to death. This final world leader will then gather the nations to wage war against Jesus Christ, in a final act of defiance and hatred of God. (Revelation 19:19)

The False Prophet

The other major spiritual force described in the Scriptures is called the False Prophet. This is a spirit that leads men into heresies, false religion, and beliefs that separate them from God. (2 Peter 2:1) The False Prophet satisfies the desire of the wicked for religion; satisfies their conscience that in worshipping – what they think is God - they are "alright" with the Lord.

The False Prophet comes under the guise of Christianity or Jehovah God. He presents a religion that is soothing to the ears of the wicked, things that make a man believe all is well with his soul, even though he lives and glories in sin.

He presents heresies and idols for worship, that lead people into the worship of demons. For all worship of false religion and false gods is ultimately worship of the devil. (Revelation 19:20)

The False Prophet

To the believer in Christ, the False Prophet lies about the Word of God in an attempt to lead him astray and into sin. A vivid illustration of this is given in Genesis. The serpent, the devil himself, told Eve that God lied and she would not die if she transgressed his commandment.

We see the same pattern in the Old Testament, where false prophets told the Israelites, who had sinned, all would be well and they would have peace. Yet, the opposite was true. The wrath of God burned on the Israelites and judgment was upon them. (Jeremiah 14;13, 4:10, 5:12)

The World Christian Encyclopedia (Barrett, Kurian, and Johnson; Oxford University Press), states there are now over 30,000 various denominations, all claiming to be of the Christian faith. Therefore, we can say the world abounds with false prophets that aim to lead the people astray and away from the true worship of God.

The Earth

In the Scriptures, it states the shedding of man's blood pollutes the earth. (Numbers 35:33). And since the death of the righteous Abel, the entire earth has been polluted by the slaughter of men, and shed blood of God's people. (Revelation 18:24).

The prophet Isaiah states, (Isaiah 24:3) "the earth is polluted by its inhabitants, for they transgressed laws, violated statutes, broke the everlasting covenant."

Therefore, in Isaiah 24 and in the Book of Revelation we read the earth is destined to perish and pass away, giving way to a new earth and new heaven.

Here we also learn something about the holiness of God. At the end of the age the Lord will live among redeemed men. (Revelation 22) However, the ground must be holy, undefiled, perfect. In 1 Chronicles 22:8, the Lord tells King David that he cannot build the Lord's temple, even though he was a "man after God's own heart." (1 Samuel 13:14) Which meant he was devoted to the Lord, despite his sins. And the reason given was that David had blood on his hands.

"You have shed blood abundantly, and have made great wars: you shall not build a house to my name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in my sight." (1 Chronicles 22:8)

And thus, the earth, defiled by the slaughter and blood of millions in war, and murder of God's people, will cease to exist, for the temple of God must be on holy ground.

Artifacts & Idols

Artifacts, as we have defined, are all those things created by the hands and ingenuity of human beings, both physical and cultural. While many artifacts were created for the benefit and good of mankind, the Scriptures reveal the heart of man is prone to make idols out of artifacts.

Idols are described as either of two things in the Scriptures. An idol can be a graven image (something carved from wood, stone or metal) that represents a god or divine power in the mind of the worshiper.

An idol is also described as the object of one's greed or covetousness – a strong lust in the heart for more of something, such as the greed for money. Therefore, whatever the object that one covets, whether it is money, or things, or people, it becomes an idol when it is worshiped.

You worship something when you desire and trust in it for your happiness, comfort and provision. You essentially bow down to it, giving honor and devotion. You place your hope, and affection in the thing of worship to deliver you from your fears, worries and cares of life. The idol becomes the treasure in your heart.

Idolatry

Thus, at the root of all idols, is the desire to gain something, from someone or thing other than Jehovah God. Idolatry is rooted in unbelief - unbelief in either the existence of Jehovah God, or unbelief in the Word of God. Therefore, man puts his faith in an object, a person, or an idea, or in a belief, or some demon, that he perceives will fulfill the desires of his heart for happiness, prosperity, security, wisdom, provision of his needs for food, shelter and clothing, to fulfill his purpose in life or provide for his overall well-being.

While in some societies there is still the worship of graven images, or statues, pictures and figures that represent divine power or false gods, we see that modern man has put his faith in a multitude of things, other than the Lord God, for the fulfillment of his needs and desires. Man has made idols out of wealth, money, religion, leaders, celebrities, weapons, intellect and science, to name a few.

Idolatry

It must be mentioned these things, mostly, in and of themselves are not evil, but man's sin nature, a spirit that is naturally opposed to God, will by nature worship the things made by the hands of men, the things that are the apple of man's eye. Man's heart, his spirit, is by nature hostile against the Lord God (Romans 8:7) and will refuse and reject the worship of the true God. For man's spirit, as we have already said, was corrupted in the fall of Adam.

Idolatry

Behind every idol created in the mind and imagination of men, is the spirit of man's sin nature - that which rejects the Lord God and the Word of God. When we trust in money, for example, to fulfill the desires of our hearts, you are obeying your sin nature, obeying the temptations of the devil. The Apostle Paul in Romans 6:16 states you are a slave to whatever you obey. And whatever you obey becomes your master.

Idolatry, therefore, describes man's enslavement to evil desires, the desires of the devil. Sin becomes the master of the idolater. And the devil his god.

The Rich Young Man

The Lord Jesus points this out in the story of the rich young man in the Book of Mark. (Mark 10:21-23)

Wealth was his master, and money was his idol; his graven image of a god. In the story, the man asked the Lord how to gain eternal life. The man was a good son of Israel; he had followed the Law of God all his life. He had committed no sin, or so he thought.

The Lord told the man he lacked one thing. Then he told the man to give away his riches to the poor and follow him. What the Lord was saying was, “you have loved your neighbors, and obeyed the Law, but the question is do you love me?” “Follow me, and I will become your Lord and master, the one you must obey and serve. “I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my son (people)” Leviticus 26:12

But the young man, upon hearing this departed from Christ. What commandment did the young man refuse to obey? Little did he realize he had broken the first commandment: “You shall have no other gods before me.” Exodus 20:3.

The Rich Young Man

The man proved greed and wealth was his master and as a result the devil was his god. He trusted in his wealth more than he trusted God for his provision, happiness and comfort. He did not resist the desire to covet, for he loved his lusts more than he loved God Almighty. (Mark 10:21-23)

It is as the Lord said, “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.” (Matthew 6:24)

In this story we also have a microcosm of the world. The world can be defined, simply, as all that in life that is **not** governed by God. Conversely we can also define the world as all that in life which **is** governed by the Devil. Thus when we say a man is “worldly” we are saying his life is controlled by the devil and his desires; and not by the will of the Lord Almighty.

The Rich Young Man in this story represents many professing Christians, and followers of false religion who have obeyed a system of rules and rituals but who refuse to subject their lives to the will and authority of God Almighty in repentance, holiness and sacrifice of spirit.

Judgment

At the end of the ages, in Revelation 19 and 20, we read the entire kingdom of Satan; Babylon, the Beast, the False Prophet and Satan himself will be destroyed by the hand of God. Then after those events, we read that all the unredeemed, people whose names were not found in the Lord’s Book of Life, will be thrown into the lake of fire which is hell. And then in Revelation 21 we read the earth, where Satan ruled and is soaked with the shed blood of God’s people, will also pass away. And all the history and things created by man, that were worshiped, will also pass away.

Judgment

As the earth perishes, so will all the idols, achievements, jewels, technology and monuments mankind has created. In Isaiah 24:19 the prophet states: “The earth is utterly broken, the earth is split apart, the earth is violently shaken. The earth staggers like a drunken man; it sways like a hut; its transgression lies heavy upon it, and it falls, and will not rise again.”

And then in Isaiah 2:18 we read that on the Day of Judgment, “the idols will vanish completely.”

And in Psalm 34:16 we read all memory of the wicked will be erased from the face of the earth.

The great point of 1 John 2:15, to “not love the world,” is that everything in life as we know it will pass away. If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, you are warned and commanded not to give your heart to that which perishes, that which Lord calls evil.

And why is it evil? Because the deeds of men, no matter how noble they may appear, all come from a heart that rejects the Lord God. (Matthew 10:22)

Judgment

It is at this stage we can say with confidence that the world referred to in 1 John, the world we are warned not to love, is represented by all those things that are judged at the end of the ages.

The works of unrepentant men, spiritual forces of evil, the defiled earth and all things created and worshiped by mankind will pass away. But in 1 John we are also warned not to love the things “in the world.” What are these “things” that Christians are commanded to avoid?

Love Not the Things

The Apostle in 1 John 2:15- 16 says, “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 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.”

Let’s break this down so we can understand the significance of this commandment. In this exercise, we will substitute this phrase: “the desires of man’s sin nature” for the “world” except in the last instance where we will substitute “devil”

Do not love “the desires of man’s sin nature” or the things in “the desires of man’s sin nature”. If anyone loves “the desires of man’s sin nature,” the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in “the desires of man’s sin nature”, 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 Devil.”

James 4:4

Let's do the same exercise for James 4:4: "You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."

"You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship (affection) with "the desires of man's sin nature" is enmity with God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend (show fondness for) "the desires of man's sin nature" makes himself an enemy of God."

So again the Scriptures confirm that the desires of man's sin nature are the same desires as the devil, since the sin nature was born of the devil. And thus anyone who has affection or shows fondness for such desires – whether it be selfish ambition, covetousness, power, fame, fighting, dissension, wealth, war, lasciviousness, etc. participates in unholy, unrighteous and sinful acts.

The World in the Church

When the church begins to bend to the will of men, to survey and respond to the desires of the people and allows pride, wealth, worldly ideas, politics, pleasure and things that tickle the fancy of men – things that engage the earthly desires of men - to enter the church, that church has conformed to the world.

That church shows affection for the world. Then slowly that church will preach messages that appeal to the sin nature of men, messages that appeal to earthly concerns, cares of life, and prosperity. Messages that make the people feel comfortable in their sins.

Therefore James 4:4 is a message not only for the individual but also for the church

Desires

A very important question to ask is, "why does the Lord condemn the desires of man's sin nature, and not just the acts of sin which result?"

The answer is this: a man may covet wealth, but not have it, but if he did, he would worship wealth. A man may covet his neighbor's wife, and not commit adultery, but if the opportunity came, he would do so. A man may have anger, hatred and prejudice against another, and not commit murder, but in the right circumstances he would kill.

The Apostle John says "Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life present in him." 1 John 3:15

And the Lord says, "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment;" Matthew 5:21-22

Dear friend, the Lord not only judges the works of men, but He also judges the heart: the desires of men. And if the desire of a man's heart is not for Jesus Christ and the Father; then it is for his own pleasure, idols, demons and the devil. It is black and white and there is no third option or middle ground.

The God of this World

All the desires that come from man's sin nature, that corrupted part of his spirit, originate from the devil. And all such desires lead to sin and idolatry. The forces in the Kingdom of Satan seek to entice and seduce men into sinful behavior, to keep them from God's salvation and cause ruin and death. Men are vulnerable and willing because their natural lusts and pride are evil. All Satan does is provide a match to ignite the fire. Thus, the devil can rule over the hearts of men, blinding them, enticing them, and seducing them to give in to their evil desires. And once a man has given in to his evil desires, the devil can control him.

The example we have previously given, of the rich young man, illustrates this principle. He loved his desire for money and riches. He did not resist it. To him it brought happiness, pleasure, stature, power and puffed up his pride. He loved his desires for wealth more than he desired to follow and obey the Word of God.

The God of this World

Therefore, we can say he obeyed the desires of his sin nature. Sin became his master and money was his god.

Believers are admonished to "resist the devil" and he will flee. (James 4:7). In other words, resist the temptations of the lusts of the flesh and the lusts of the eye. And if you have the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit within you, then you have the power to resist. You have the power to gain victory over sin and temptations. You have the power to overcome the god of this world.

Lusts of the Flesh

The deeds or works of men, therefore, are all evil in the eyes of God. The one who embraces and gives in to the lust of the eyes (greed, covetousness), and the lust of the flesh (desires of the sin nature) and pride of life (boasting in one's possessions or place in life) signifies that he is a child of the devil.

Thus, the Apostle James could say that person, who loves these desires, is an enemy of God and under condemnation.

The Apostle John says the love of God cannot exist in such a person who embraces, has affection for and continually practices the desires of human nature and the devil.

A New Heart

The redeemed of God are given a new Spirit when they are born again – The Spirit of Christ. The blessed now have a new desire – a desire for God. A desire to know him, to love him, to obey and please Him. The blessed then have a hatred of their sin nature, that which they once embraced.

Yet, the redeemed, while on this earth are in a body that retains its sin nature. The difference now is that sin does not rule or govern the desires of the redeemed. The Spirit of God prevents them from the continual practice of sinning and leads the blessed to desire holiness, as God has commanded.

Yet, temptations will abound in this world that appeal to the flesh. Temptations that entice God's people to pursue desires for money, position, materialism, fornication, pleasure, importance or celebrity – both in the secular and in the church.

And while we will not delve into this topic today, there are “besetting sins.” Sins that are persistent and plague true believers who love the Lord. Yet the Lord says you too can have victory, when you go to the cross to crucify the flesh.

Guard Your Heart

The Scriptures tell the believer to “guard your heart.” (Proverbs 4:23) For the heart is deceitful and beyond cure. (Jeremiah 17:9) The believer will never be immune to temptation or sin; therefore, he must constantly be on guard.

Friendship or affection for the world can take many forms. And thus we are warned to guard our heart for there can be NO fellowship between the world and the Kingdom of God.

It is important to emphasize the Scriptures do not teach that believers are NOT to interact with the people of the world. For we are all called to go into the world, to all the nations, and give witness to Christ, to preach the gospel, to manifest the love of Christ, to feed the needy, to comfort those who mourn, to intercede for sinners, and to shed the light of God in every mole hill and mountain top. We are commanded to love our neighbors and love our enemies.

Guard Your Heart

What we are commanded NOT to do, however, is to participate in, show affection for, or desire the things of man's sin nature and the devil. To participate in politics that are based on hate, division and power, is to show love for the world. To participate in systems that exploit others for the sake of profit and gain, is to show love for the world.

To pursue ambition for the sake of wealth, fame or power – under the guise of religion and church growth – is to show love for the world. To pray alongside groups that pray to a universal, nameless god, or support religions which deny Jesus Christ is God come in the flesh and the only way to God the Father, is to embrace the antichrist and dismiss (call worthless) the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. (1 John 2:22, 1 John 4:3)

The believer is reminded that to pursue desires, outside the will of God, is ultimately idolatry - and “love of the world.”

Summary

Let's summarize what we have learned so far.

- (1) **The World:** The Scriptures state the whole world is under the control of the devil (1 John 5:19). He seeks to kill and destroy that which God created. (1 Peter 5:8) The world therefore, is at enmity, or opposed to the Lord. World governments, political systems, financial and economic systems, and cultural values are all bent to satisfy the will of man – not to satisfy the will of God. All society is driven to conform to the desires of the people and its leaders, those whose hearts are under the dominion of Babylon. And therefore under the control of the devil.

Summary

- (2) **Sin Nature:** A cloud of darkness, the unseen city of Babylon, is all about men and nations. The earth has become subsumed by Babylon, and so sinners march to the beat of the desires of the devil and his demons. We cannot see the light which is above. Our thoughts are earthly, perverted, self-centered, cruel. Can we love another human? Oh yes, for we were made in the image of God. But because of the fall of Adam we cannot love God. Because our hearts, the corrupt spirit within, is enmity (hostile) against Jehovah God. All the desires of man's heart come from the devil. The sin nature of man was born of the devil, and so the devil has the power to entice men, to draw them into sin.

Summary

- (3) **Perish:** And thus all the world and all that is in the world, is condemned and will perish. The world, under the control of Babylon, is the “city of destruction” in Pilgrims Progress. It cannot be made better. The Lord's command is to get out. Before you too share in the sins and plague that will befall Babylon. Everything in the world, as we know it, will pass away. The spiritual forces of evil, the earth itself, money, wealth, idols, the inventions of man and things that give pleasure.
- (4) **Evil Desires:** And all that is in the world, the substance of the world, are evil desires which lead to all kinds of sin.

Summary

- (5) Thus, the one who succumbs, indulges and pursues self-centered desires, the desires of man's sin nature, the Lord says will fall into ruin and despair.
- (6)) The only thing of permanence, of eternal value, the things that will not be destroyed, are the things “not of this world.” The people Jesus Christ has “chosen out of this world.” (John

15:19). These are the redeemed of Christ. Those purchased with his blood on Calvary, who have placed the Lord God at the center of their heart, to be their Lord and master.

(7) Now let's compare the two kingdoms, the Kingdom of God and the World, the kingdom of the devil

Kingdom Comparison

The World has those born of man – the once born, and their desires are of the earth, and of Satan which lead to sin and death. The Kingdom of God has those born of the Spirit, the twice born, and their desires are from God and for God. And the two are incompatible. The double-minded man, who strives to live in both worlds, we are told in James 1:8 cannot please God and thus abides in condemnation.

Kingdom Comparison

Lord: In the world the thoughts and actions of men are controlled by Satan. In the Kingdom, the people of God are governed by the Spirit of God.

Happiness: In the World the purpose of man is epitomized by The American Dream, the right of man to pursue individual happiness. The world revolves around man, a concept called humanism: a system of thought attaching prime importance to human desires, capability and the rational rather than the divine and supernatural.

In the Kingdom of God, the people of God while on this earth have a sole purpose to seek the happiness and glorification of God. Does the Lord want man to be happy? Yes, but as a byproduct of his relationship with the Lord, not as a primary goal.

Kingdom Comparison

Treasure: In the World man is exalted, held up high and praised as he pursues success, fame, prosperity and treasure on earth. Treasure is not just gold and silver, but could be academic accomplishments, athletic achievements, trophies and monuments that puff up the spirit of a man. Whatever a man holds dear to his heart, whether it be an object, a person, ambition or an idea, that is his treasure.

In the Kingdom our treasure is Jesus Christ. When the Lord says he came to give life and it more abundantly (John 10:10) he was not talking about materialism, things that will rust and perish and can be stolen (Luke 12:33, Matthew 6:19). He was talking of the indwelling Spirit that would impart the knowledge and love of God and the fullness of Jesus Christ in the redeemed. (Ephesians 3:19).

In 2 Corinthians 4:7 it says the treasure we have is in jars of clay. Meaning the light of God, the Spirit of Jesus Christ, exists in the body of the born-again believer. Dear friends, make no mistake, God is the treasure of the believer. And we will pursue the knowledge of God for eternity.

Kingdom Comparison

Independence: In the world the Scriptures (Psalm 58:3) say men go astray as soon as they are born. Each person is born with an independent spirit the Lord calls rebellious for they do not acknowledge, in their lives, the sovereign rights of their maker, God Almighty. (Psalm 78:8) Each person in the world determines their own path based on what is right in their own minds. (Isaiah 53:6)

In contrast God's people are led by the Spirit. It is the Spirit of the Lord that orders the footsteps of those who acknowledge Him in all their ways. (Proverbs 3:6). We become bondservants to the Lord Jesus Christ, instruments to do His will. (1 Corinthians 7:22)

Kingdom Comparison

Indulgence: In the Kingdom only God Almighty is praised and man remains in a state of humility and meekness, content to live with what he has. (Hebrews 13:5) In the Kingdom the man of God lives by the guidance, unction and leading of the Holy Spirit. We are to live by the Spirit and do the works of Christ to glorify the Lord God. In the world men live by and indulge their desires and lusts.

Kingdom Comparison

Fruit: And finally, the end result of man's way is eternal misery in Hell. For all have sinned and no one does good. All have become corrupt (Psalm 14:3). While in the Kingdom of God, the fruit of the Spirit is eternal life and joy in Jesus Christ.

Conclusion Part 1

This concludes Part 1 of this lecture. You may continue to Part 2

Introduction

Welcome to Part 2 of *The World at Enmity with God*. In this lecture, we are going to focus on how the spiritual forces of evil seek to entice God's people into sin. Knowing the strategy and trickeries of the enemy, is key to avoiding the snares (traps) which can lead to ruin, disappointment and failed ministries.

Learning Objectives

The objectives for this class are:

Identify the tactics used by the enemy to entice God's people into sin

Compare the world and the Kingdom of God

Understand what God's people are called to do in the world

Objectives of the Enemy

Before we talk about the tactics of the enemy let's discuss his objectives. There are two groups at the center of his objectives; unbelievers and believers.

The primary objectives of the enemy against unbelievers are to: (a) keep them from God's salvation, (b) keep them enslaved to sin and (c) lead them into worship of the devil and demons.

In Part 1 of this lecture we covered how the enemy accomplishes his goal. Powerful spiritual forces tempt man's sin nature; his lusts and pride. Fear of death, persecution and false prophets persuade men to deny Christ and worship Satan. While spiritual blindness, the deceitfulness of riches, and love of evil desires, prevent men from seeing the light of God and keep them enslaved to sin.

Keeping the people from salvation leads to their eternal misery in hell. Keeping them enslaved to sin brings misery, destruction and death on earth. And leading them to worship the devil satisfies his ambition to be like God.

Objectives of the Enemy

The primary objectives of Satan against believers, God's people, are to: (a) entice into spiritual adultery and (b) have them forget the Lord. And we'll explain what that means a little later.

The result of his tactics causes the believer to fall into sin. Sin creates separation between the believer and God, incurs the chastening hand of the Lord, and makes the believer's ministry and witness for Christ ineffective.

Let's first look at spiritual adultery, and the tactics the enemy uses against believers.

Bride of Christ

In the Old Testament, we get a vivid illustration of the relationship between the Lord and His people. Our Lord Jesus Christ reinforces this same principle in the New Testament.

When one believes on Christ and surrenders to God, that person is no longer his own but belongs to the Lord. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) The Scriptures state the believer has been purchased or redeemed out of the world, by the blood of Jesus Christ. (Acts 20:28, Revelation 5:9) God now owns you. Christ is your salvation. You are his bondservant for life. (1 Corinthians 7:22-23)

The Lord God becomes your husband, brother, father and master. (Isaiah 54:5, Hosea 2:19, 2 Corinthians 11:2). The believer in turn becomes the bride of Christ.

Your heart, your life, everything about you belongs to the Lord. He says he will be your provider, he will be your comforter, he will give you joy, he will protect you, teach you and guide you. He will be your all in all. And in this relationship, the Lord demands complete obedience, faithfulness, and love. He demands and commands you to love him with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. (Mark 12:30)

Adultery

When the heart of a believer strays, and is seduced by the lusts of the eye, to covet, or decides to worship idols, the Lord calls this adultery. The believer has given his affections and worship, meant only for God, to something worthless.

The sin of spiritual adultery is deadly serious. In the Old Testament we read of the catastrophic consequences to Israel when they worshiped the gods of the surrounding nations. In the New Testament, we read of the ruin and disaster that befell believers who were seduced by greed. (Acts 5:1)

When one's heart begins to stray from God he calls on His people to repent and return to their first love. We read this in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 with the churches in Ephesus and Laodicea.

A believer in adultery sits on dangerous ground. First, while he is in a state of sin, the Lord cannot use that believer for His purposes. Then the hedge of protection against the devil, who seeks to devour God's people, is removed.

Let's look at some of the tactics the enemy uses against the believer to entice him or her into adultery

Tempter: Loved Ones

1 Kings 11:4 – "For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been."

A tried and proven tactic of the enemy is to use someone close to the believer, as a tempter, to coax him into sin. The tempter brings a strong influence on the saint, often when he is at a weak point, and gets him to worship false gods, or succumb to the lusts of the flesh (e.g., anger, jealousy, desire for pleasure, fornication, etc.).

In the example of Solomon, his wives persuaded him to build altars for the worship of idols, thus bringing him under condemnation (1 Kings 11:9).

Another example is in Genesis, with the fall of Adam. In this story notice how the serpent seduced Eve into transgression. And then Eve, Adam's wife, was the one who coaxed this son of God into sin.

Tempter: In the Church

Covetousness is an act of adultery. For behind the spirit of covetousness and greed, is an abominable demon, Babylon, as we discussed in Part 1. Therefore, to covet is to give your heart to the worship of evil desires and false gods.

When one covets, his heart has literally gone mad over the desire for something. His heart's passion has abandoned the Lord for rubbish. In the following verse, we get a vivid illustration of the lust of the flesh, of the craving for something worthless. And we find the tempter, the one who enticed the Israelites into sin, is a member of the congregation.

Numbers 11:4 – "Then the foreign rabble who were traveling with the Israelites began to crave the good things of Egypt. And the people of Israel also began to complain. "Oh, for some meat!" they exclaimed."

"We remember the fish we ate in Egypt that cost nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic. But now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."

Tempter: In the Church

In this story, the Israelites were on their way to the Promised Land after being freed from the bondage of Egypt. They had witnessed firsthand the power of God against the forces of Pharaoh. They had seen the parting of the Red Sea and many miracles. And during the journey in the desert, the Lord caused manna to rain from the sky. Manna is a grain that the people would use to create bread. The Scriptures tell us the manna was sufficient to fully nourish all the Israelites for 40 years. (Exodus 16:35)

Now in their midst were "foreign rabble," non-Israelites, who tired of the manna and stirred up the desires for the delights of Egypt. In this story we observe one of the most glaring examples of the corruption of man's nature, the lust of the flesh. The bread of God, manna from Heaven, was looked upon with disdain. And astonishingly, cravings for the delicacies in Egypt, a craving to satisfy their taste buds, would incite rebellion for a return to slavery, beatings and oppression.

Tempter: In the Church

We are told the rabble mixed in with the Israelites at the very start of their exodus from Egypt. (Exodus 12:38). So from the very beginning the devil was planning on bringing disaster on God's people. Tempters from the evil one, close to the believer, are often right in the congregation or church.

The rabble incite the lusts of the crowd for things that God purposely did not provide. (Deut. 8:3) And they encourage the disdain of what God did provide. This led to foolish and lunatic thoughts of how great life was in slavery and oppression.

In Numbers 11:20 we read, the people “wept before Him, saying, “Why did we ever leave Egypt?”

This was an outright rejection of God, and dismissal (as worthless) of his salvation from Pharaoh. As a result, the Israelites came under immediate judgment. (Numbers 11:33)

Tempter: In the Church

When the church begins to bend to the will of earthly men, and allows pride, wealth, worldly ideas, pleasure and things that tickle the fancy of men - that engage the earthly desires of men - to enter the church that church has conformed to the world and departed from the path ordained by the Lord God.

And the Lord Jesus Christ is thrust to the outside of that church. (Revelation 3:20)

This story, of the lusts for the delicacies of Egypt, even though it meant a return to bondage, brings to mind something else to think about.

Tempter: In the Church

Were the lusts of the people any different, than someone who desires a deadly drug to feel good, to get high, knowing it could cause death? Or the one who smokes cigarettes, knowing it can lead to cancer? Under the control of his lusts, that person barrels towards disaster, unable to resist the temptations of the devil and his own desires to satisfy self.

What this story also illustrates is the strategy of the enemy. The devil will always try to pull people seeking Christ back into the kingdom of darkness, Egypt in this example. His desire is to keep you in bondage and enslaved to sin, whatever form it may take. And he will do it through temptations that appeal to the lusts of the flesh or the lusts of the eyes.

Tempter: Nations

A tempter may also come in the form of surrounding nations, people or culture. Here, the believer is seduced to adopt the traditions of the people for the sake of peace (fitting in), gain or profit. In the example of Israel, in Ezekiel chapter 23, we read the Israelites were enamored of the wealth, power and stature of the Assyrians, Babylonians and Egyptians.

Therefore, the Israelites lusted, craved for the things they saw in the surrounding people. Their covetousness then led them to worship the gods of these foreign nations. And into abominable practices such as human sacrifice, the sacrifice of their infant children, just to gain a blessing. (Isaiah 57:5, Ezekiel 20:31, Psalm 106:37, Jeremiah 7:31)

This gross idolatry, the worship of false gods, which the Scriptures say is the worship of demons, brought the Israelites under severe condemnation.

I want you to think about, what in today's culture have you adopted? What things do you participate in that everyone else is doing around you?

Tempter: False Teachers

Let's read these two verses:

2 Corinthians 11:4 – "For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully."

Galatians 1:6 – "I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God, who called you to himself through the loving mercy of Christ. You are following a different way that pretends to be the Good News"

In these verses we learn the devil will use false teachers, men who come as evangelists, pastors or messengers of Christ, to seduce the believer into adultery. The Apostle in these verses is rebuking the churches in Corinth and Galatia for being so gullible and naïve in indulging false teachers who had come into their congregation.

Tempter: False Teachers

The false teacher introduces doctrines of men, lies or corrupt interpretations of the Word of God. He attempts to lead the believer into bondage of religion devoid of the Holy Ghost.

Some lead the people to worship, pray to, and make supplications (petitions), give religious honor and praise to dead men and women, their pictures or statues, as we observe in the Catholic religion. Any such worship makes the object of worship or prayer a divine power – a being able to answer prayer. And thus he makes that person to be a god; a false god.

For in the Scriptures we learn of only two spiritual forces which are the source of miracles that may be manifested on earth, the Lord and the devil. There is no human being, or character in the Bible that can answer prayer or wield power from the heavenly places. Not Mary the mother of Christ, the prophets of the Old Testament or the Apostles' of Jesus Christ. So if the person is not praying to the Lord Almighty he or she ends up praying to the devil, whether he realizes it or not.

Tempter: False Prophets

Let's read two verses in Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 14:13-14 – "But, "Ah, Lord GOD!" I said, "Look, the prophets are telling them, 'You will not see the sword nor will you have famine, but I will give you lasting peace in this place.'" Then the LORD said

to me, “The prophets are prophesying falsehood in My name. I have neither sent them nor commanded them nor spoken to them; they are prophesying to you a false vision, divination, futility and the deception of their own minds.”

Jeremiah 23:17 – “They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, ‘It shall be well with you’; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, ‘No disaster shall come upon you.’”

Tempter: False Prophets

In these verses we learn the enemy will also seek to introduce false prophets into the congregation. The false prophet seeks to assure believers, who walk in sin that God loves them and a loving God will not bring judgment upon them. He attempts to **take the fear of God away** from the people, thus leading them from repentance and further into sin.

An example of this is seen in Genesis chapter 3 with the temptation of Eve. The serpent, the devil himself, tells Eve that God didn’t mean what he said, and she would not die if she transgressed the Lord’s commandment.

And thus believing a lie, Eve committed a transgression that forever changed the course of human history.

Summary

In summary, to seduce the believer into spiritual adultery, the enemy will use tempters close to the believer. These can be loved ones, folks in the church, pastors, or surrounding nations, culture and people. There will be a proposition to the lust of the eyes, (covetousness, greed), or a proposition to the lust of the flesh (pleasure, adoration, approval, peace). And those who walk in sin, he will lead them astray with false prophets.

And every believer, during his life on earth, will be tempted and tested.

James 1:12 “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.”

Temptation of Christ

An illustration of the multiple tactics of the enemy is given in Luke chapter 4 in the temptation of Christ in the desert. As a background, the Lord was commanded to go into the desert for 40 days without food to be tempted, to endure a trial before the Father would release him to his ministry on earth. And thus without food or water the devil attempted to entice Christ into sin.

First, the devil appeals to the **lusts of the eyes**. To entice Christ to worship him he “showed him all the kingdoms of the world.” Then since Christ hungered, he appealed to the **lusts of the flesh** – for Christ to

break the fast commanded by God, “command this stone to become bread.” And lastly he appeals to the ego, **the pride in man**, by enticing Christ to show the power of God when he says “If you are the Son of God...” (command the angels).

And when these temptations to sin against God Almighty didn’t work, the enemy returned and used fear of death and persecution by the Jews to attempt to get Christ to deny the Word and will of His Father, God Almighty.

Forget the Lord

Let’s read Deuteronomy 8: 11 and Hosea 13:6 in preparation to discuss the next tactic of the enemy: to get the believer to forget the Lord

“Deuteronomy 8: 11 – “Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments and His ordinances and His statutes which I am commanding you today; otherwise, when you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built good houses and lived in them, and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold multiply, and all that you have multiplies, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.”

Forget the Lord

Hosea 13:6 – “When I fed them, they were satisfied; when they were satisfied, they became proud; then they forgot me.”

The next strategy of the enemy is to get believers to “forget” the Lord. Forget is defined as, “to put out of one’s mind; cease to think of or consider.” The enemy wants to cause decay in the affections, and devotion to the Lord. If this happens, the believer is more vulnerable to commit transgressions and sin.

The primary tactic he uses to accomplish this “forgetting,” is a spirit of pride. And the pattern is usually the same.

The saint is (a) blessed of God, it might be with abundance, wealth, victories or strength. Then (b) the saint becomes satisfied or complacent in his relationship with the Lord. Next (c) a spirit of pride enters him and he “forgets” the Lord. Which leads to (d) either the saint believing he has profited from his own hand and might (he is a god in his own right), or the saint believing he is above God’s reproach.

Let’s look at two examples. First, is the story of King Uzziah.

King Uzziah

Let’s read two verses:

2 Chronicles 26: 5 – [King Uzziah] “He continued to seek God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding through the vision of God; and as long as he sought the LORD, God prospered him.”

2 Chronicles 26:15 – “...His fame spread far and wide, for the LORD gave him marvelous help, and he became very powerful. But when he became strong, his heart was so proud that he acted corruptly, and he was unfaithful to the LORD his God, for he entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense.”

In this story, King Uzziah knew the law of God commanded only consecrated priests could perform rites within the sanctuary. Yet filled with pride, because of his favor with God, he thought he was above the law. Now the rest of the story.

King Uzziah

2 Chronicles 26:17 - “Then Azariah the priest entered after him and with him eighty priests of the LORD, valiant men. They opposed Uzziah the king and said to him, “It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron who are consecrated to burn incense. Get out of the sanctuary, for you have been unfaithful and will have no honor from the LORD God.” But Uzziah, with a censer in his hand for burning incense, was enraged; and while he was enraged with the priests, the leprosy broke out on his forehead before the priests in the house of the LORD, beside the altar of incense.”

“Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and behold, he was leprous on his forehead; and they hurried him out of there, and he himself also hastened to get out because the LORD had smitten him.”

“King Uzziah was a leper to the day of his death; and he lived in a separate house, being a leper, for he was cut off from the house of the LORD.”

Church at Laodicea

The next example, where the enemy uses pride to make the saint forget the Lord, is the church at Laodicea as described in Revelation chapter 3.

Laodicea had become wealthy from the blessings of the Lord, and then a spirit of pride entered the church. Because of their riches the attitude was “I have need of nothing,” which included Christ, their Lord and Savior. (Revelation 3:17)

Church at Laodicea

Hear the Lord’s rebuke of the church at Laodicea. “So then, because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit thee out of my mouth.” (Revelation 3:16)

It is important to understand; a born-again believer cannot lose his salvation. However, if that believer falls into gross sin, and does not repent, the Lord will severely chasten. Chastening or discipline of the saints leads to repentance and sanctification, (holiness) so that on the Day of Judgment the believer is presented blameless. (1 Corinthians 1:8, Philippians 1:10)

The Lord states, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." (Revelation 3:19)

Dear friends, life in this world is the only hell believers will ever experience and thus we are chastened to be made pure and perfect on the Day of Judgment.

The Pharisee and Tax Collector

In Hosea 12:8 we read of a deadly pride where wealth can lead the believer to think, since they are blessed, no sin can be found in them, they are spotless. This type of pride also takes the form of self-righteousness as described in the parable of the Pharisee and tax collector in Luke 18:11.

The Pharisee thought he was above condemnation, and had disdain for sinners because he was blessed by God. Yet, little did he realize, because of his arrogance he was about to be chastened (disciplined and humbled). And as the Apostle warns, "The Lord will judge His people." "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Hebrews 10:30-31)

The Enemy Within

The last enemy of God's people we will discuss - is you. The spirit inside you. The spirit that wars against God's people is within each person. The sin nature in each of us.

Romans 8:7 states, "The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so."

The original man, because he is of the world, will hate the Holy Spirit, because the Spirit declares the desires of men are evil. The Spirit seeks to crucify the sin nature. Thus, the Spirit and sin nature are at war in the soul of the believer. (1 Peter 2:11, Romans 7:23)

So let's compare the Spirit within the born-again believer, representing the Kingdom of God, and the spirit within all men, the sin-nature, that represents the kingdom of the devil.

Kingdom Comparison

The desires of the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit that indwells the born-again believer, are from God and reflect the will of God for man.

- To know God
- To do his will
- To please God
- To fear God
- To grow into the fullness of Christ
- To do the works of Christ

The World at Enmity with God Class Transcript

- To be holy
- To love God
- To love your neighbor
- To love your enemy
- To love the brothers and sisters in Christ

Kingdom Comparison

The desires of the flesh such as envy, conceit and covetousness can lead to war or theft. Anger can lead to violence and hatred. Desire for fornication can lead to rape, adultery and murder. When one succumbs to the lusts of the flesh you are in essence giving permission, authority for the spirit within, that is of the devil, to control you. And lusts conceived lead to sin. The desires of the flesh, as listed in the Scriptures are presented on this slide.

- To kill
- To inflict harm
- To be worshiped (*fame, celebrity, power, position*)
- Selfish ambition
- To steal
- To lie
- To fight
- To gossip
- To swindle
- To rule and conquer
- To covet
- Decadence
- To get intoxicated
- To be rich
- To verbally abuse
- To please oneself
- To disobey parents
- Sorcery
- To slander
- Orgies
- Fornication
- Treachery

Kingdom Comparison

The fruit or manifestation of the Spirit of God reflects the fullness of Jesus Christ indwelling in the believer. These are:

- Peace
- Joy
- Love of God
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-control
- Holiness
- Righteousness
- Conformity to the image of Christ

Kingdom Comparison

Hypocrites will profess Christ but will not bear fruit of the Spirit. Moral folks will swear they have quenched the desires of the flesh, but have no love for God. The true believer loves God and through the indwelling Spirit is given the power, by God, to kill the desires of the flesh and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ and bear much fruit – for in the bearing of much fruit is the Lord God glorified (John 15:8)

Bad Fruit

When a person yields to the desires of the flesh, he produces “bad fruit.” (Matthew 7:17).

Ephesians 4:27, teaches that sin, if yielded unto, opens our soul for the devil to enter. We give him authority to rule in our lives. You give him the okay to be your god.

In churches across the land we observe fighting, discord, jealousy, gossip, prejudice, envy, greed, pride, and adultery with the world.

How are we to be vessels for the love of God, a light in dark places, a beacon for the hope of God, when evil spews from our lips and body? (Philippians 2:14-15) The answer is we cannot.

Kingdom Comparison

The fruit of the flesh leads to war, prejudice, fear, political division, selfishness and eventual death. The fruit of the flesh, as described in the scriptures, are listed on this slide (and in the lecture transcripts).

- Dissension, Factions
- Rage
- Hatred/Prejudice
- Bitterness
- Fear

The World at Enmity with God Class Transcript

- Jealousy
- Envy
- Adultery
- Covetousness
- Greed
- Pride
- War
- Conceit
- Heartless
- Cruelty/Wickedness
- Mercilessness
- Arrogant
- No self-control
- Insolence
- Hostility
- Ungrateful
- Haters of God
- Murder
- Idolatry/False Worship

In Titus 3:3 – it says “For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.”

Therefore, the people of God are to flee from such evil of which they too once participated. (Titus 3:3)

Light of the World

In the first three chapters of Revelation the Lord warns the churches, if they do not repent of sin, He will remove their candlestick. In other words, their position as a light of God, a vessel for the Most High will cease, if they continue in sin.

Therefore, in almost every book of the New Testament are repeated warnings, admonishments, and exhortations for the believer to put away the desires of the old man.

When the Spirit of God entered the soul of the born-again believer, he was given the power to overcome the evil desires within. He was given the power to have victory over demons and to resist the devil. And all this power is manifest when the believer reckons himself crucified with Christ. So what does it mean to reckon yourself crucified with Christ?

Light of the World

Reckon – means to believe and see in your mind that thing as actually happened. The believer sees Christ hanging on the cross. And on the back of the cross, he sees himself hanging there with the Lord:

dead to the desires of his sin nature, with nail pierced hands and feet. He sees himself buried in the tomb with Christ, dead to the calls, whistles and temptations of the world. Then he sees himself resurrected, sitting on the throne with Christ in heaven, with authority over principalities and spirits of the world.

Light of the World

When the believer reckons himself crucified with Christ, and knows the Lord God as his Lord and Master, the power of the Spirit is free to crush the desires of man's sin nature and release the fullness of Jesus Christ in the life of the believer. Hallelujah!

When Christ died so did you – to the desires of your flesh. When Christ was buried so were you - to the temptations of the world. When Christ was resurrected so were you - as a new creature, sitting in Christ at the right hand of the Father.

Galatians 2:20, 5:24, 6:14; Romans 6:4-6; Colossians 2:12, 3:1-2

Amen, praise God, my father, my comforter, my Lord, my friend and my Almighty Savior. Amen, Amen and Amen.

Summary

Let's summarize what we have covered in Part 1 and Part 2 of this lecture.

Earth. The planet earth is defiled. Since the murder of Abel, the land has been polluted with the blood of the righteous, and the slaughter of men. (Revelation 18:24) The transgressions and sins of man have brought judgment on the earth and therefore, it will pass away, "never to rise again." (Isaiah 24:20)

Lusts. The lusts of the flesh are the desires of man's sin nature. A spirit formed from the same spirit as the devil. Thus, the Lord Jesus Christ would say sinners share the same desires as the devil, the father of man's sin nature. (John 8:44)

The Devil. The kingdom of the devil consists of powerful spiritual forces: Babylon, the False Prophet, the Beast and the prince of demons, Satan, the devil himself. The devil has power over the hearts of men, to tempt and seduce them into sin. And because of this power, he is called "the god of this world." (2 Corinthians 4:4)

Demons. Babylon, a spirit of covetousness, greed, and abominations, draws men, kings and entire nations into evil. The Beast, a spirit of pride and deification of man, controls the minds of kings, which lead nations to reject Christ and persecute and kill God's people. And the False Prophet deceives many, leading them away from worship of the true God and into the pit. (Revelation 9:20)

Summary

Idols. The inventions, culture and things created by the hands of men, become idols (false gods) in the hearts of sinners. Therefore, the prophet Isaiah says the earth will be “stripped completely bare and will be totally plundered,” on the Day of Judgment. (Isaiah 24)

Darkness. The Lord calls the world a kingdom of darkness, subsumed by Babylon, where there is only evil. Man yields to the evil desires of his heart. Desires, once conceived, lead to sin. And sin leads to eternal death, for all have sinned. Idolatry pervades the nations. The devil rules the hearts of men. The earth is polluted with shed blood. And the world rejects Jesus Christ. (John 3:19)

Love not the world. Believers are warned to love not the world, for all is passing away. But even more than that, we are told to resist the desires of the flesh. Guard your heart. (Proverbs 4:23) Don't be seduced and make yourself an enemy of God. (James 4:4)

Judgment. It is in this condition we find the state of man, and the state of the world. A world, the Lord says will be judged and sentenced to destruction and death. (Revelation 20 and 21)

Summary

The call of God. So, what does the Lord call his people to do, while they are in the world? First, we are commanded to grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 4:12-13) Give way, submit, surrender to the indwelling Spirit, so you may grow in the knowledge and love of God.

Warfare. Then, you will find you are in a battle with the powers of darkness and conflict in your own soul. However, the Lord says be of good faith, for he has overcome the world. (John 16:33)

Thus we are told to put on the full armor of God, so we can withstand the arrows and temptations of the devil, and crucify the desires of the sin nature by committing ourselves to the cross of Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 6;11, Galatians 5:16, 5:24)

Works of Christ. Then, we are commanded to do the works of Christ, to be the hands and feet of the Lord in the world. To shed light in dark places with the Gospel, to be a witness for Christ, to intercede for sinners, to feed the hungry with the Word of God, and to fill thirsty hearts with the love of Christ. For in this is God glorified. (Isaiah 61:1-4, Luke 4:18)

Conclusion

Next class. We have now given you a solid foundation in the *Fall of Man*, and the *World at Enmity with God* classes to understand the state of mankind and the world. This prepares us for the next lecture series, *God's So Great Salvation*. For out of darkness there is light. And in a world of doom and death there is a Savior.

Father, I pray that those hearing this message will be kept safe in your arms from the enemy, and they will be equipped with the knowledge and strength to glorify thy name.

The World at Enmity with God Class Transcript

In Jesus' precious name, Amen.