

The Course Of This World

March 14, 2019

Ephesians 2:1-3 ESV

1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins

2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience--

3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

TWO KINGDOMS AT WAR

Colossians 1:13 ESV

13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son.

- domain (*exousia* - power, authority, jurisdiction, right)
- transferred (*methistēmi* - remove from one place to another, translate)

People think of the world, not as a battleground, but as a playground. We are not here to fight; we are here to frolic. We are not in a foreign land; we are at home. We are not getting ready to live, but we are already living..."

— A.W. Tozer

Ephesians 6:11-13 ESV

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

- schemes (*methodeia* - cunning arts, strategy, investigate by method, frame devices)

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

- wrestle (*palē* - wrestle, struggle)

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

1 John 2:15-17 ESV

15 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.

- love (*agapaō* - welcome, entertain, be fond of)

16 For all that is in the world--the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life--is not from the Father but is from the world.

17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

James 4:4 ESV

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.

- enmity (*echthra* - hatred, hostility, opposition)

Mark 4:14-20 ESV

14 The sower sows the word.

15 And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them.

16 And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy.

17 And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away.

18 And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word,

19 but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

20 But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold."

BALANCE CAREFULNESS WITH COMPASSION

- We can never lose sight of (or drop our guard) the horrific war that rages every minute between the powers of God and Satan, righteousness and sin, good and evil, truth and lies.
- In contrast and in balance, we must always be moved with compassion for the souls entrapped in this war.

Hebrews 1:3 ESV

3 He [Jesus] is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature...

John 2:23-25 ESV

23 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing.

24 But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people

25 and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.

- entrust (*pisteuō* - believe, commit to, commit one's trust)

Matthew 9:35-36 ESV

35 And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.

36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Luke 19:41-44 ESV

41 And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it,

42 saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.

43 For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side

44 and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

ESCAPING THE CORRUPTION IN THE WORLD

Galatians 1:4 ESV

4 who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.

2 Peter 1:4 ESV

4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

2 Corinthians 4:4 ESV

4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

- blinded (typhloō - to obscure, to darken the mind, make blind)

2 Corinthians 11:2-3 ESV

2 For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

3 But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

John 8:44 ESV

44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

2 Peter 2:6-9 ESV

6 if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;

7 and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked

8 (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard);

9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment,

2 Corinthians 10:3-6 ESV

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh.

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

6 being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

Romans 12:2 ESV

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- conformed (*syschēmatizō* - to conform to the same pattern, to fashion alike)
- transformed (*metamorphōō* - to transfigure, to change into another form, transform)
- renewing (*anakainōsis* - renovation, complete change for the better, to be changed into a new kind of life as opposed to the former corrupt state, to make new)

John 17:14-17 ESV

14 I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.

- keep (*tēreō* - guard, preserve, reserve, keep)

16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

- sanctify (*hagiazō* - to separate from profane things and dedicate to God, to make holy, to dedicate, consecrate, purify)