

EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN
PATHS TO AVOID-PT 1 LOVING THIS WORLD
1 JOHN 2:15-17

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Introduction

**Here is the point of what the Apostle John is saying in these few verses:
AS BELIEVERS WHO ARE TO BE IN FELLOWSHIP WITH JESUS,
WE ARE TO AVOID LOVING THIS WORLD AND ITS WAYS!**

The word “*world*” is translated from the word “*kosmos*” I think most of us have heard that term used. “*Cosmos*” as we have heard it is “*an ordered system of ideas.*”

When God made this universe, including this “*world*” we live in and **all** that is in it, He saw to it that **everything of what He had made was “*very good*”!**

Genesis 1:31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

So, what’s wrong with this *world*? Well, we know because the LORD has told us in His Word! What is wrong with this world is SIN! Sin entered! And when sin entered **the curse of sin entered and along with it death entered!** And though **the glory of God is still evident** in all that we can sense through what God made, it is NOT the same as when God made it all “*very good*”!

There are many who want to blame GOD for the curse and the death! But He is not to blame! **SIN IS TO BLAME! ADAM IS TO BLAME! EVE IS TO BLAME! SATAN IS TO BLAME! HOWEVER, THE BLAME DOESN’T GO TO GOD!** Don’t even go there!

So, “*THE WORLD*” as used in this passage is not talking about planet earth itself, but rather about *this world’s system and ways that were affected by THE FALL and are OPPOSED TO GOD and is revealed in lives of those who do not know the LORD!*

So, what exactly is wrong with this world’s system?

Well, a true Believer shouldn’t have to ask that question because it is so obvious when you come to know Christ!

I. THE COURSE OF THIS WORLD SYSTEM IS WRONG!

Think back to your former way of life before coming to Christ: *Ephesians 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

A. The COURSE Of This World Is Increasingly DISTRACTED!

People are wrapped up in **the day to day things of this world** and all that goes with it while being **oblivious to the reality of both death and the judgment to come!**

Matthew 24:37-39 37 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, 39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

What is really sad is that I am **seeing this more and more, NOT just among those who are LOST, but I am seeing it more and more among PROFESSING BELIEVERS!**

Too many professing Believers are **living distracted lives—in fact, most are too distracted to serve Christ or even be faithful to Christ and His Church!** Their roots are deep into this world when they should be deep in Christ!

Romans 13:11-14

We as Believers ought to be able to discern the times we live in and realize that Jesus is just outside the door! He could come at any moment!

The COURSE Of This World Is Increasingly DISTRACTED...

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B. The COURSE Of This World Is Increasingly Both DARKENED And DEPRAVED!

In our **intellectually enlightened** times so many people have been educated far beyond the intelligence that God gave them!

They continue to deny the very God Who gave them life in spite of all the evidence that He has put before them that testify to His existence as well as His eternal power and Godhead!

Romans 1:22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

Anyone with one eye and half common sense can see how that **the increase in the promotion of evolution and the decrease in the belief in God** has led to an ever increasing amount of **evil and godlessness!**

Genesis 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

1. Mankind Is Increasingly Evil In Their Hearts!

Hearts can more easily dwell on that which is evil in our day with all that is in our world!

(TV, radio, Hollywood, internet, computers, smart phones, social media, and on and on...)

It is getting harder and harder to shield our little ones from the evil of this world! It is almost everywhere we turn! That's why they need God at a young age!

2. Mankind Is Increasingly Evil In Their Deeds!

Because **mankind is increasingly evil in their hearts**, it corresponds to them **increasing the amount of evil that they actually commit!** (i.e. their deeds!)

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The COURSE of this world is increasingly DISTRACTED, DARKENED And DEPRAVED...

C. The COURSE Of This World Is Both Increasingly DECEIVED Or DELUDED And Increasingly DECEIVING!

2 Timothy 3:13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

There is an **increase of apostasy** in our time because men are **being deceived** and because there are **more deceivers!**

The Thessalonian Believers thought the day of Christ (i.e. the Tribulation period) had begun! Paul assured them that it had not.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

I've never seen a time when there has been so much **heresy and false doctrine** as there is today, even among some who call themselves Independent Fundamental Baptists!

1 John 5:19 "And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness."

**II. THE COURSE OF THIS WORLD SYSTEM IS WRONG!
THE CAPTAIN (OR CHIEF) OF THIS WORLD SYSTEM IS WRONG!**

Ephesians 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

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The “*prince of the power of the air*” is a reference to *Satan, the Devil!*
We know that to be the case because it further identifies that one as
“*the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.*”
He is called “*the prince of this world*” in other places in Scripture!

A. SATAN IS NOW WORKING IN THE CHILDREN OF DISOBEDIENCE—i.e. THOSE WHO ARE LOST!

Jesus had this to say to a religious crowd in:
John 8:43-44 Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. 44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Are there more saved people or lost people in this world?
Lost people! And Satan is the prince, or chief, or captain of ALL of them!

Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

That might cause us to despair if it weren't for:
1 John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

B. SATAN WORKED IN US BEFORE WE CAME TO THE LORD!

Ephesians 2:3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

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1. Satan's Nature And His System Affected Our Former Conversation!

“*conversation*” = “*behavior or manner of living*”

a. **Our living was “...in the lusts of our flesh...”**
Because of our captain (the Devil), we were controlled by the lusts of our flesh!

b. **Our goal was “...fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind.”**

2. Satan's Nature And His System Affected Our Former Condemnation!

With Satan's nature, we were *children of wrath!*
*John 3:18 “He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is **condemned already**, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”*

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

3. But Jesus' Nature And His Salvation Affected Our Change! (Ephesians 2:1, 4-10)

a. **Believers are not to love this world system! (vs. 15)**
Eph. 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked...

Psalm. 97:10 Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.

Romans 12:9 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.”

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Believers are not to love this world system!

b. **Believers are not to love the things of this world! (vs. 15)**

Colossians 3:1-2 1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

c. **Love of the world shows that the love of the Father is not in us. (vs. 15)**

What does that mean? Think about it:

1) **You can't love God the way you should when you love the world!**

Matthew 22:37-38 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment.

2) **You can't project the love of God to others as you should when you love the world!**

Matthew 22:39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

a. **Your love toward a brother or sister in Christ.**

b. **Your love toward the lost.**

d. **The things of the present world system are not of the Father but of the world. (vs. 16)**

The Devil has been using these **three things** listed here to trap mankind ever since the Garden of Eden!

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Satan used all three in his temptation of Eve.

Gen. 3:6, And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food [lust of the flesh], and that it was pleasant to the eyes [lust of the eyes], and a tree to be desired to make one wise [pride of life], she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

1) **The lust of the flesh** refers to the fallen nature of man's flesh. The flesh wants what it wants!

2) **The lust of the eyes**, which is the window that lets in sin! Beware of opening the eye gate to feast on sin.

Psalm 119:37, Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way.

3) **The pride of life** refers to the boastful pride of man that wants to lift self up!

Satan used all three of these in his temptation of Christ (Matthew 4:3-4, 5-7, 8-10)

e. **The things of this world pass away, but the things of God do not. (vs. 17)**

Nineteen world civilizations have existed and then perished. Ours will do the same.

The things of this world are **temporal**...the things above are **eternal**!