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This World is not our Home

“For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.” Hebrews 13:14

By Mike Wingfield

As believers in Jesus Christ, we grieve over the moral, economic, and political collapse of our nation and world. A spirit of lawlessness has enslaved America. At the heart of this lawlessness is the rejection of God, His Son, the Bible, and the Body of Christ – the church. Read **Psalm 2**. Years ago, I described the United States as standing on a cliff, ready to plunge to its death as a free nation. It is apparent that we have leaped from the precipice and are in a rapid freefall that will end in our sudden demise as a sovereign nation. We are being deceived if we believe we can turn the tide of wickedness, immorality, violence, and foolishness that are gripping this nation.



God gives them up. Read **Romans 1:18-32**. We have arrived at such a point. In my opinion, based on Scripture and what we see in our nation, we are beyond turning back. When God gives up on a wicked culture, He removes the work of the Holy Spirit in the consciences of the wicked and they are left to the demise of their own

foolish and wicked desires. As evidence, I point to the militant demand for the acceptance of all forms of sexually deviant lifestyles. We are also witnessing riots and protests in rebellion against the Supreme Court’s decision to reverse the federal government’s control over abortion. These events and others clearly demonstrate the wickedness that has permeated

this nation. Some people today are like the militant homosexuals who surrounded the house of Lot and de-

ated this nation. Some people today are like the militant homosexuals who surrounded the house of Lot and de-

manded that he release the two young men [who were really angels of God] so they could sexually abuse them throughout the night ([Genesis 19:4-11](#)).

Listen to what the Bible says about a society where wickedness rules in the hearts of men.

Psalm 7:11- *“God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.”*

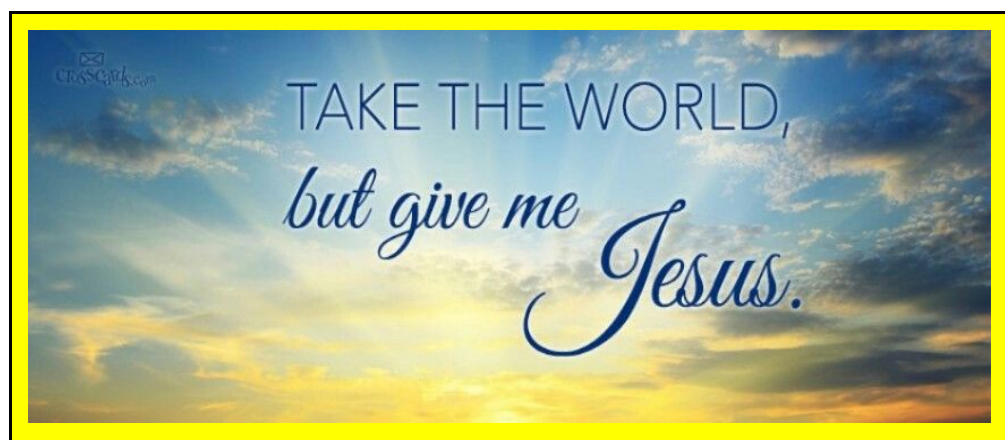
Psalm 9:17- *“The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.”*

Psalm 10:1-18- Read this Psalm and think about what we are witnessing in America.

Psalm 12:8- *“The wicked walk on every side, when the vilest men are exalted.”*

Psalm 14:1- *“The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.”*

As believers, we must be careful to not allow the hopelessness of our world to cause us to worry, despair, or be depressed. We must focus upon the blessed hope that this world is not our home. The Bible tells us these days would come. Clearly, they are now here. We are witnessing a powerful testimony that the coming of our Lord is very near. His time of wrathful judgment is coming upon the wicked world system and those who promote it.



I fear that many professing Christians have allowed themselves to fall in love with the world. Their love for the world is greater than their love for their Savior and their true home in heaven. Christians today are enamored with the world's forms of entertainment [TV, movies, music,

computer games, sports, etc.]. But they have little or no time for God. Most professing Christians never read the Bible. Their hobbies, sports, and recreation are more important than pursuing a passionate relationship with God.

I am convinced that most Christians in the West do not want Jesus to return now. They are very comfortable in this world. The world is satisfying the fleshly longings of their lives. Their faith is weak, and they would rather live here than in heaven with Jesus. This is evidenced by the fact that the preaching of the prophetic Word frightens them. The hope of the imminent Rapture should comfort us ([1 Thessalonians 4:18](#)) and give us hope ([Titus 2:13](#)). The believer should take great comfort in the vengeful wrath of God that will be poured out upon the wicked during the Tribulation. Read in the book of Revelation what the angels and church in heaven will say when they know that the vengeful wrath of God is taking place on earth ([Revelation 11:15-19; 19:1-3](#)).

Most pastors are only preaching about the blessings of God in this life here on earth. This is not the foundation of our faith. We have been made for God and eternity. What this world has to offer is empty compared to the food for our souls when we walk with God. *“If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable”* ([1 Corinthians 15:19](#)).

When the Bible refers to “the world,” what does it mean? The original languages of the Bible have three primary

words that speak of “the world.” It can speak of the land or creation, the age or time in which we live, or it refers to the ungodly world system. Predominately, the New Testament uses the Greek word *kosmos* to refer to the order or system of the world that appeals to our sinful nature. This word is used 186 times in the New Testament. The frequency of the reference to this world system should cause us to realize that this is

a subject that is very significant for the believer to grasp.

The *kosmos* speaks of the deceitful power, possessions, prestige, positions, and pleasures that this world system has to offer. It was the prideful desire for these things that

caused the good angel, Lucifer, to fall into sin (**Isaiah 14:12-14**). Now this angel is called Satan, and he has brought his prideful desires to earth to bring death and corruption to all of mankind. It is his goal to bring men and governments into his orbit of influence. He wants to use them as pawns to attack the God Who made everything for His glory. In **John 12:31**, Jesus referred to the devil as *“the prince [ruler] of this world.”* This clearly indicates that Satan is in control of this world system. When Satan tempted Jesus at the beginning of His earthly ministry, he offered Him control and ownership over *“all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them”* (**Matthew 4:8**). Jesus rejected Satan’s offer because He knew this would lead Him to serving the devil. Satan is still offering power, possessions, prestige, positions, and pleasure to all who will worship and serve him. Most people on earth have accepted his lies and are only living for what the devil has to offer.

My friend, you cannot serve God and the world system. Jesus said, *“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and [the things of this world system]”* (**Matthew 6:24**).

Satan tempts us with the things of this world because he knows they will lure us away from God. You cannot walk in the Spirit and desire the ways of the world system. Read **Galatians 5:16-21**. They are opposed to each other. They war against each other. The Bible says, *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love 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”* (**1 John 2:15-16**). The spirit of this world system is evil, sensual, and is of the devil, not of God (**James 3:15**).



Before we came to Christ, we were following the way of the world. We were following Satan. The Apostle Paul described the former life of the believer as those who *“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”* (**Ephesians 2:2**).

When a person comes to Christ for salvation, he must repent of his sins. His enemy is his own sin nature, the world system, and Satan. Those who walk with God will always be at war with these three entities. This is the daily struggle of the Christian life.

God expects us to overcome the alluring ways of this world. **1 John 5:4-5** says, *“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?”*

Jesus prayed the night before Calvary for His disciples. Listen to His prayer, *“I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world”* (**John 17:14-16**).

Jesus had repeatedly warned His disciples that the people in the satanic world system would hate Him and His followers. We are not like the lost. Our goals, thoughts, lifestyles, and words should be different. We do not fit in with their godless way of thinking and living.

God expects us to live in this world, but to not allow the world to overcome us and make us like it. Our assignment is to proclaim the gospel of salvation and convince people they need to become like Christ and His true church. We have been called to a life of holiness (**1 Peter 1:13-15**).

If we are walking with God and in the power of His Spirit, we will not be comfortable in this world. This world is not our home. Our citizenship is in heaven (**Philippians 3:20**). The heartbeat of our lives will be fixed upon our home with Christ in heaven. We will *“set [our] affection on things above, not on things on the earth”* (**Colossians 3:2**).

There are at least six biblical reasons why this world should not be our home.

1. The World is Ungodly.

As previously mentioned, the world system is controlled by the devil. It is a system that is evil and is the exact opposite of the nature of God – Who is holy. That is why the Bible declares that anyone who loves the world does not have the love of the Father in Him (**1 John 2:15**). It is impossible to love evil and holiness at the same time. They are directly opposed to one another.

When a Christian looks to the world with great affection, he is demonstrating that he is not walking in the Spirit. Instead, he is walking in step with his own sin nature, which is anchored in this world. He is living for self rather than Christ. We should not allow the world to pour us into its mold. We are commanded, *“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God”* (**Romans 12:2**). We must reprogram our minds so we can think like God. That is done only through serious meditation upon the Word of God. *“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee”* (**Psalms 119:11**). We are set apart from the world when we allow the Word of God to take root in our thinking (**John 17:17; James 1:21**).

2. The World is Temporal.

Man was originally made for eternity to live in the presence of God (**Hebrews 13:14**). This world system is only temporary. We are commanded to not love the world because it is passing away (**1 John 2:17**). When we live only for the things of this world, we are working for something that will eventually disappear. The Bible declares,

“He that doeth the will of God abideth forever” (**1 John 2:17**).

This home, our present world, is like a dilapidated house that has been inspected and slated for demolition. In contrast, God is eternal (**Psalms 102:25-28**). If we are like God, we will invest in things and matters that are eternal. Jesus said, *“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust [consume] and where thieves break through and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust [consume] and where thieves do not break through and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”* (**Matthew 6:19-21**). The treasure of our heart is where our heart [mind] is. Think about that. What do you think about the most? Are you heavenly minded, or worldly minded? That is where your treasure is!

3. The World is the Enemy of God!

As followers of Christ, we stand with Him against His enemies. The Bible asks us to examine our heart and ask this question, *“Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God?”* (**James 4:4**) Then, the Bible declares, *“Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God”* (**James 4:4**).

The world hates God and all that is of God. Jesus told His disciples that the world hates that which is of God and loves its own (**John 15:18-25**). We are at war with the devil and his world system. We must guard our hearts and fight the good fight of our faith with God’s armor (**Ephesians 6:10-17**). Too many churches are attempting to make the church like the world to win the world. That is impossible. We must call the saints of God to come out of the world and live holy lives. We cannot flirt with the world and walk with a holy God!

When we give our soul to the world, we are acting like spiritual adulterers (**James 4:4**). To become a Christian is to make Christ the Lord and love of your life. No one and nothing should come before Him. He must be first in our lives!

4. The World Overpowers the Soul!

It is the goal of Satan and his world system to kidnap our hearts and souls and lead us astray from the presence and blessings of God. The Apostle Paul gave the following warning, *“Beware lest any man spoil you through phi-*

losophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ” (Colossians 2:8). Those who are of this world operate in a realm of spiritual darkness. The ways of God are foolishness to them. Their whole way of life is enveloped in a world that promises to give man what only God can provide.

There is not enough room in the human heart to follow God and the world. Jesus shared a parable about a person who claimed to be a believer. Jesus compared the heart of the person to the seed of the gospel that was sown in the soil the human heart. This believer’s heart crowded out the word of God because of the thorns and weeds that were present in the soil of his heart. Jesus explained the problem as follows, *“He also that received the seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word, and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful” (Matthew 13:22).*

Unfortunately, after more than 50 years of ministry, I have noticed that most who attend church on a weekly basis and claim to be saved are spiritually unfruitful. That simply means they are not really serving the Lord and producing spiritual fruit [works] that will count for eternity. The reason for this is that the cares of this world have crowded out the influence and impact of the Word sown in their hearts. Sitting in church, they may be convicted. However, when they leave church, their minds drift back to the cares of this world and they forget about what God has said to them. Therefore, their life is spiritually empty, and they are living just like those in the world who do not know Christ.

It takes great discipline and time in God’s Word to overcome the influence of the world upon us. We must develop great spiritual vision to focus on the blessings that we cannot see, rather than focus upon the tangible things that overwhelm our lives. Read **2 Corinthians 4:8-18**.

5. The World does not Feed the Soul

We have been created as a physical/spiritual being. We are created in the image of God (**Genesis 1:26**). Unlike animals, we have an inner being - a spirit, soul, and conscience. When we are physically born in a state of sin, our inner man is dead (**Ephesians 2:1**). When we are saved, our inner man is born-again. Therefore, we must feed the soul, just like we need to feed the body. Jesus said, *“Man*

shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). When the inward man is fed, that is when we have peace, power, strength, confidence, contentment, and joy. The world system cannot feed the soul. For the soul, the world brings deception, turmoil, weakness, confusion, and frustration. The stuff of this world does not fill the hunger of the soul that was created to have a relationship and fellowship with God.

The things of this world may deceptively satisfy a person for a while. But soon they will be empty again. Only Jesus and the things of God can bring eternal joy to the soul. Jesus said to the woman at the well in John 4, *“Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:13-14).*

6. This World is not our Home.

When the mind of the believer is transformed by the truth of God’s Word, he will realize that this world is not his home. Our home is wherever Christ is (**Colossians 3:1-4**). Our citizenship is in heaven (**Philippians 3:20**). The Bible proclaims that we are *“strangers and pilgrims”* on this earth (**Hebrews 11:13; 1 Peter 2:11**). A stranger is a person that does not belong where he is. He is different from the local people around him. He may look, dress, and act differently than those around them. His language will set him apart from the culture. When fashions, actions, and language are ungodly, the believer should refrain from what is customary.

A pilgrim is a tourist. He knows he is just visiting until he makes his journey home. This is the attitude the believer should have about living in this world.

The walk of faith that illustrates the believer’s lifestyle of longing for home, while avoiding being attached to this world, is best illustrated in the contrasting lifestyles of Abraham and Lot.

Abraham was called by God out of the pagan culture of Ur of the Chaldees (**Genesis 12:1; Hebrews 11:8-9**). As Abraham walked by faith, he received the revelation from God about *“a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God” (Hebrews 11:10).* As he

wandered about on the earth as a stranger and pilgrim, he kept looking to the future, and longing for the city of God (**Hebrews 11:13-16**).

When Abraham's and Lot's shepherds began to quarrel in the Promised Land, they needed to separate. Abraham allowed Lot to choose between the hill country, and the plain of Jordan which was well-watered near the five wicked cities by the Dead Sea (**Genesis 13:5-10**). Abraham knew that His God would provide for him, and He was not concerned about the choice Lot would make. Lot chose the well-watered plains, which did not require trusting God for rain. Lot was also drawn toward the wealth and pleasures of the cities of the plain. We know from extra biblical records that these five cities were along the caravan route of the ancient world and provided a variety of wealth not available in the hill country where Abraham



was living. The lucrative trading within these cities allowed the people to explore the sinful pleasures offered by their opportunities and the constant traffic from the an-

cient world. One of these cities was named Zeboim, which means "wild place." In comparison, these cities were the ancient version of Las Vegas.

Unlike Abraham, Lot chose to be a citizen of a wicked world system. He chose a land that was more conducive to the easy way of life away from God. Lot's life was anchored in what the world had to offer, while Abraham's life was focused upon pleasing God.

Lot's lifestyle cost him dearly. When the time came for God to extract Lot and his family from the cities He was to destroy, they did not leave with a willing heart. Most of Lot's family would not leave and were destroyed in the judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah (**Genesis 19:14**). Lot's wife loved her family and life in Sodom so much that she disobeyed God and looked back, turning to a pillar of salt (**Genesis 19:26**). Lot's choice and lifestyle cost him the lives of his family! What a heavy price to pay!!!

I fear that far too many believers, like Lot, have set their sights on the world's lifestyle and pleasures. We need to be like Abraham. We need to walk by faith, trust God, and keep looking for the city built by God.

The Lord is coming to rescue us from the destruction and death of the Tribulation Period. Are we ready to go? Or are we like Lot and his family who were far too attached to the pleasures of this world and therefore reluctant to leave a world marked for destruction from the wrath of God?

"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26)

Be READY for the shout that will take us out!

