

THE PIONEER BAPTIST

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WORLDLINESS

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"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," I John 2:16.

The word "world" as used in the Scriptures has a variety of meanings. There is the word "aion" used to denote an age or dispensation, a period of time. Then there is the word "Kosmos" which is the most frequently used. It is with this word that we shall have mainly to do. We find that this word "Kosmos", translated world is not used with uniform significance.

1. Kosmos is used of the universe as a whole. *"God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands," Acts 17:24.*

2. Kosmos is used of the earth. *"Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end," John 13:1. "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love," Ephesians 1:4.*

3. Kosmos is used of the world-system. *"Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out," John 12:31.*

4. Kosmos is used of the whole human race. *"Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God," Romans*

3:19.

5. Kosmos is used of humanity minus believers. *"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you," John 15:18.*

6. Kosmos is used of Gentiles in contrast with Jews. *"Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?" Romans 11:12.*

7. Kosmos is used of the sum total of Godless men and things conceived of as apart from God.

"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," I John 2:16.

It is in this last sense that we shall study the word world. We shall endeavor to see just what the world in Theology is a discourse upon God: a sermon on worldliness is a discourse upon the world. Our text tells us that the world in its nature and conduct is alienated from and opposed to God. And the world is what it is because it is away from God. God is the source of all good and nothing can be good apart from Him. For morals to be alienated from the life of God is for them to be dead in sins. The comets that careen about the heavens need to be caught and tamed and bound to peaceful revolutions around some central sun, or else they are wandering stars. So unless man is arrested by irresistible grace, and tamed by the Spirit of God and bound by the law of gratitude to revolve around Jesus Christ who is the sun of our lives, he is a wandering star for whom is re-

served the blackness of darkness forever. Every spirit that embodies the lust of the flesh, etc., is worldliness. We shall look at the world intellectually, morally, physically, and religiously.

INTELLECTUALLY

The world is in a state of ignorance. Wisdom is an attribute of God, and man apart from God is without true wisdom. *"This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish," James 3:15. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all liberally," James 1:5. "Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?" I Corinthians 1:20.*

Modernism is a high sounding word, and with many it is a synonym for wisdom, but in reality it spells ignorance. Modernism with its brood of ignorant heresies is the offspring of the father of lies, who put a question mark after God's word when he met Eve in the garden. *"Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" Genesis 3:1.* The fruits of modernism represent the findings of depraved minds. It is the world by wisdom trying to find God. It is the result of a process of human reasoning independent of divine revelation. Modernism is the world's proud boast of intellectual attainment.

MORALLY

The world is in a deplorable condition as to morals. Holiness is an attribute of God, He is essentially holy. Holiness is not inherent in man, but it is an imputed and imparted quality. Human society minus the regenerated is a moral corpse. *"God looked down from heaven*

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upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God. Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one," Psalm 53:2, 3. "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away," Isaiah 64:6. Everything that issues from the lust of the flesh is immoral in the sight of God. No such thing as an unregenerate moral man with God. Dancing, cards, theaters, nearly all forms of athletics, belong to the world. "For bodily exercise profiteth little," I Timothy 4:8. Much of the car riding and nearly all radio and TV broadcasts are "worldliness." Man by nature shows more likeness to Satan than to God. Jesus said, "That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man," Mark 7:20-23.

PHYSICALLY

Every kind of death is the result of sin, and physical death is no exception. The graves that dot the land everywhere are mute evidences that "the wages of sin is death," Romans 6:23. By sin Adam sowed the seeds of death in his own body, and that of his posterity. "As by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned," Romans 5:12. In salvation God deals with the physical part of man and gives him a body that cannot die. "For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive," I Corinthians 15:21, 22.

RELIGIOUSLY

This world is in a state of spiritual death. The world abounds in religions but they are of the Christless kind. This world has a god, but he is not the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The religions of this world have Satan for their author and inspirer. Satan has a gospel, synagogue, ministers, etc. "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel;

for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works," II Corinthians 11:13-15. "There be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed." Galatians 1:7-9. "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning," I John 3:8. "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world," I John 4:1.

The religions of this world deifies man. The divinity of man is a cardinal doctrine of modernism. This was the first heresy brought forth by the Father of lies, when he said to Eve, "For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil," Genesis 3:5. The sin of man will reach its climax in the man of sin. The coming of the man of sin, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all signs and lying wonders, will be the consummation of all the centuries of human development and culture. "If any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect," Matthew 24:23, 24. The world is now being schooled in hero-worship. The man of sin will be the world's hero. "Many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many," Matthew 24:11. Worldly religions make much of man, but little of God. Men of the world are looking for deliverance to come out of the earth; believers are looking for deliverance to come out of heaven. "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is," I John 3:1, 2.

Thirty dollars was given to Brother Gormley for the purchase of books or tapes during our last Mission Bible Conference. The order didn't get written down and we have no idea who placed the order. Please let us know who you are—we still have your money!!

GOD'S WORD TO THE SAVED

JESUS PAID THE FULL PENALTY FOR YOU:

"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed," I Peter 2:24. "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures," I Corinthians 15:3.

HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS NOW IS PLACED TO YOUR CREDIT:

"But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption," I Corinthians 1:30. "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth," Romans 10:4.

CONFESS HIM AS YOUR SAVIOUR AND LORD:

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved," Romans 10:9. "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven," Matthew 10:32.

FOLLOW JESUS IN BAPTISM:

"And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan," Mark 1:9. "Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead," Colossians 2:12. "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life," Romans 6:4.

WORSHIP WITH HIS PEOPLE:

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching," Hebrews 10:25. "Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you," John 20:19. "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight," Acts 20:7. "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard

behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet," Revelation 1:10.

CONTRIBUTE AS GOD PROSPERS:

"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come," I Corinthians 16:2. "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings," Malachi 3:8. "Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also," II Corinthians 8:7.

STUDY THE BIBLE DAILY:

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction, in righteousness," II Timothy 3:16. "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so," Acts 17:11. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth," II Timothy 2:15.

CONFESS TO GOD EVERY SIN:

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness," I John 1:9. "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon," Isaiah 55:7. "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise," Psalm 51:17.

IN CASE OF DOUBT TAKE SAFE PLACE:

"And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin," Romans 14:23. "All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any," I Corinthians 6:12. "But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ," I Corinthians 8:12. "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not," I Corinthians 10:23. "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of

God," I Corinthians 10:31.

PRACTICE THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST:

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee," Hebrews 13:5. "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world," Matthew 28:20. "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them," Matthew 18:20.

WORK FOR HIM AS THE WAY OPENS:

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves," James 1:22. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven," Matthew 7:21.

SEEK TO WIN OTHERS TO JESUS:

"Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you," John 20:21. "And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men," Matthew 4:19. "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost," Luke 19:10.

PRESS ONWARD, OUTWARD, UPWARD:

"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus," Philippians 3:14. "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing," II Timothy 4:8.