

What do you picture when you think of a battlefield?

Perhaps man bodies clashing against one another. One force pitted against another. Soldiers fighting, being wounded and bodies lying on the ground.

A battlefield is not a pretty sight because a battle is not a pretty sight.

And yet,

Wars and battles have been going on for thousands of years, and for various reasons.

- Tribal wars
- Land grabs
- Even religious wars

But there is one war that is the oldest of them all and unfortunately, all people are in it.

We are all on a spiritual battlefield.

Think of three nations attacking you. they are, your Flesh, the World and the Devil.

\We spoke previously about the Flesh being the enemy within. And that is true.

But there are more enemies that actually aid the Flesh in its war against us.

Today, I would like to speak about the World.

The World is the system that we live in. it includes, politics, education, entertainment, philosophy, culture, the economy and whatever else make up the various societies around the planet.

And as beautiful and enjoyable as this world may be, why has it become such an enemy of our souls?



Because of its leader. Satan is the god of this world according to II Cor 4:4.

We can trace the Devil's rulership over the world in Job 1:7
Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.

Job 1:7 *The LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it."*

He apparently has a free reign and not only that, seems to be superintendent of the world.

Later on the Apostle Paul called him the "god of this world."
II Cor 4:4

I do not believe this title or role has as yet been taken from him, as we will see when we study our third enemy, the Devil.

So what can we learn about this current enemy that surrounds us, the world.

1. The world is under the power of Satan

I Jn 5:19 *We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.*

This world has been compromised. Actually, a better word would be corrupted.

It went from a glorious garden to a morally, depraved community for humanity.

In this world-wide community, the people live under a delusion, a deception. The danger of deception is, you think you are right when you are wrong and no one can tell you differently.

2. The world is a place where people are separated

I Cor 3:19 *We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.*

We have those who walk with God and those who are under the world's demonic power.

Paul warns those that walk with God to;

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. Col 2:8

There is a misleading philosophy and vain deception that fills the minds of people. This influence steers people away from the eternal things of God.

Have you seen it? Of course you have. It is all around us. It is the way of the world.

Whatever it is that leads people away from the eternal things of God are deceptive, dangerous and finally, condemning.

And sometimes it even affects you and me when it leads us away from rejecting what the Word of God is telling us to do.

So there is a great divide between people:

Those who walk with God and those who walk with the philosophy of the world.

You could say the eternal minded and the temporal minded. I call them short-sighted.

They don't see the endgame. Nor do they consider the consequences of their choices.

And Jesus said He came to bring a sword and people would be divided against each other. That's because Truth divides.

3. The world is a place of spiritual danger

What we turn our affection to can make us or break us.

To love the right thing is bliss. To love the wrong thing is tragedy.

Many people have had the experience of both, bliss and tragedy.

David loved someone else's wife and it turned to murder.

Damson loved a foreigner and he lost his strength and position as a judge of Israel.

John said his partner Demas loved the world and forsook the ministry. How many people do we know like that.

That's why he said in;

I Jn 2:15 *Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

The word "love" is the Greek word *agape*. It's the same love God loved us with when he sent Jesus to die for us.

v.16 *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.*

The "lust of the flesh" is the longing for what is forbidden.

Have you noticed how tempting the forbidden is? It started in the Garden of Eden and continues today.

As we saw previously, the Flesh is that gratification that it seeks so earnestly.

It is pleasure, power, money, recognition and so on.

The "lust of the eyes" is that magnet that draws you in. You see with your eyes instead of your heart. And then you just go for it.

The "boastful pride of life" is what got Lucifer in trouble in Heaven when he said he would rise above God. It's that spirit of independence away from God to be one's own person.

Oh, the world is a dangerous place to live.

4. The world is only temporary

I Jn 2:17 *The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.*

The world is fading little by little every day.

It's ship with a hole in it. A bank with the back door open.

James called it "a vapor."

Would you buy a ticket for the Titanic after you saw the news? Hey, thank ship went down in icy waters. I think I'll try to get on.

John the Apostle wrote;

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.

Rev 21:1

4. The hope of the world

As heavy as the deception is over this world and the multitude of people that stand deceived, there is hope. That hope is a person, the God-man, Jesus Christ.

I Jn 5:4 *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.*

v.5 *Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

There is hope and there is a way out of this mess. It is faith in Jesus Christ.

Summary.

1. The world is under the power of Satan
2. The world is a place where people are separated
3. The world is a place of spiritual danger
4. The world is only temporary
5. The world has a hope

Paul said;

It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. I Tim 1:15
And He came to save you. Will you let Him?