

The Age We Are Living In and the Choice We Have

I. God's purpose for man:

- A. God created man in His own image so that man could express Him—Gen. 1:26:
 - 1. God has thoughts, feelings and intentions and we do also; God's are divine, ours are human.
 - 2. When we receive the Lord and allow Him to grow and live in us, He is able to fill our mind with His thoughts, fill our emotion with His feelings, and strengthen our will to carry out His intentions.
- B. God also gave man His dominion so that man would defeat His enemy and establish God's kingdom.
- C. Those who choose God will share in all that He is including both His kingdom and His glory.

II. Satan's intention:

- A. When God created the angels, He made one who was perfect in beauty and set him over all the others—Ezek. 28:12-15.
- B. But Satan became proud and wanted to exalt himself to be like God and seduced a third of the angels to follow him—Isa. 14:13-14; Rev. 12:4.
- C. This caused his nature to become rebellious, deceitful and violent—John 8:44.
- D. His intention is to overthrow God's kingdom and establish his own.

III. The world is Satan's kingdom; he is its ruler and the fallen angels rule over the world with him—John 14:30; Eph. 6:12:

- A. The world is developing into a full expression of its ruler, the devil:
 - 1. He is the father of liars (John 8:44) and the world is so full of falsehood that some say we are living in a post truth era.
 - 2. He was also a murderer from the beginning and the world is full of violence and injustice.
 - 3. Satan wants to overthrow God's authority, and the world is becoming more and more lawless with respect for law and authority becoming less and less.
- B. This will reach its climax at the end of this age when a world leader will rise up claiming to be above God—2 Thes. 2:7-9; Dan. 11:36.

IV. Satan is using the world to corrupt and enslave people:

- A. Many aspects of the world corrupt people by stirring up the lusts of the flesh; for example:
 - 1. Drugs and alcohol give a fleeting feeling of euphoria but lead to corruption both physically and morally—Eph. 5:18.
 - 2. Greed and the love of money induces people to commit all kinds of evil—1 Tim. 6:10.
 - 3. Pride, along with lust for power and prestige, leads to all kinds of conflict, all the way from a personal level to international wars—Prov. 13:10.
 - 4. Unrestricted sexual lust causes people to sin against their own bodies and abuse them—1 Cor. 6:18; Rom. 1:26-27.
- B. Satan is using these kinds of things, along with every other aspect of the world to damage people and prevent them from turning to God for the fulfillment of His purpose.

V. The choice is ours:

- A. Will we sow unto our flesh by allowing it to fulfill its lusts? If so, we will reap corruption—Gal. 6:8.
- B. Will we sow unto the Spirit to reap eternal life?
- C. Most people in the world are not even aware of this choice; they have been blinded by the god of this age (2 Cor. 4:4) and are just going downward with the tide of this world like dead leaves floating down a river.
- D. It is a blessing to understand the age we are living in and be able to make this choice.

Further Reading:

- 1. CWWN, vol. 39, *“Love Not the World”*, chs. 1-2.