



Berean Christian Fellowship

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Viewing the World in the Spirit

“...the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God” (2 Corinthians 4:4b).

The Church today is highly secularized. Its view of the world around it has become less spiritual and more physical. In this way, it glances ever more frequently away from Jesus when looking for a reason for what is happening or for a solution to “real world problems.” The mantra of “God and Country” has confused many minds with dominionist teaching (Christ’s physical government on earth is being established by the Church). This is a lie—Christ is the one who will establish His Kingdom, we can do nothing. Yet, the Church labors to “change the world for Christ.” This is precisely how satan would have the Church behave. He has successfully distracted many Christians from coming to terms with the fact that the world is ruled by him, and no one but Jesus Himself is going to defeat him.

Satan is the god of this world who showed Jesus “*all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; and he said to Him, ‘All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me’*” (Matthew 4:8-9). Do we live our lives knowing that the world institutions are ruled by satan, until the time of his judgment? Jesus even told the church in Pergamum that they were living “*where Satan’s throne is*” (Revelation 2:13a). Do we understand that men are not our enemies, “*for our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places*” (Ephesians 6:12)? Satan’s govern-

ment is not always easy to discern because it currently rules from the shadows. Why? Jesus forced satan’s openly pagan rule underground (occult - secret, hidden, covered) with the Light of the Gospel. And the Holy Spirit restrains his evil intentions today like the governor on an engine. Satan cannot “throttle up” until the Church and Holy Spirit are removed in the Rapture. Yet, even at half throttle, he still runs the engines of government. God is in control, but He has allowed satan to rule the world during the Church age of His witness.

The point? We are to respect the authorities, for God has allowed them to rule, but we should not look to them for answers. Paul in his letter to the Galatians reminds them they once “*were slaves to those which by nature are no gods. But now that you have come to know God...how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?*” (Galatians 4:8-9) Paul here is comparing the Jewish ceremonial law to satan’s government, which ruled the Galatians before they became Christians. Similarly, we must realize we are turning back to slavery when we look to the world to solve our problems.

How do we respond to this reality? Should we be afraid? No. Jesus’ response was “*Go, Satan! For it is written, ‘YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY’*” (Matthew 4:10-11a). Jesus will defeat satan when He returns. In the meantime, we may suffer for serving Christ only, “*but in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord*” (Romans 8:37-39). Amen.

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