

UNGODLY POWERS

THE WORLD, THE FLESH and THE DEVIL

“And you hath He quickened (made alive), who were dead in trespasses and sins; In which in times past ye 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 (sons) of disobedience; Among whom also we all had our conversation (manner of life) in times past in the lusts of our FLESH, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”
(Ephesians 2:1 – 3)

“THE WORLD”

*Used in scripture in the following ways:
(See reference at end of this handout.)*

- **The earth.** (John 1:10) He was in the world, and **the world** was made by Him, and the world knew Him not.
- **Sinners.** (John 1:10) He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and **the world knew Him not.**
- **All People.** (John 3:16) For God so loved **the world**, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life.
- **The Course/System of the World.** (1 John 2:16, 17) 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. And **the world** passeth away, and the lust of it; but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.
- **Things.** (Matthew 16:26) 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?
- **Ages.** (Ephesians 3:21) Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout **all ages, world without end.** Amen.

“THE FLESH”

Used in scripture in the following ways:

- All that is true of the unregenerated man.
- The desires and cravings of the flesh; not necessarily “sins,” but bodily appetites out from under the control of the Spirit.

THE FLESH and THE FALL

Man was created by God as a triune being (spirit, soul and body). The soul was the decisive part of man which had the ability to choose to obey the Spirit and hence be united with God and His will, or to yield to the body and all of the temptations of the natural and material world.

At "The Fall," mankind, in Adam, resisted God's authority and became enslaved to the body and its passions. (Genesis 2:7 with 6:3; Genesis 3:6; Romans 6:16)

Ephesians 2:3, uses the phrase, "and were by nature."

John 3:6, says, That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

- All men are born of "flesh" parents. Therefore, all men are naturally "flesh."
- Everything a man naturally inherits belongs to the "flesh" realm (whether obviously evil or seemingly good).
- No distinction is made to the moral character (good, bad, clever, kind, etc.) of man.
- Man is not "flesh" by doing or learning, but "flesh" by being human-born.

THE WORKS OF THE FLESH

As listed in Galatians 5:19 – 21

- **Adultery and Fornication** - unlawful sexual relations between man and woman; single or married.
- **Uncleanness** – sexual perversions
- **Lasciviousness** – absence of restraint, shameless conduct
- **Idolatry** – image worship
- **Witchcraft (sorcery)** – practice of dealing with evil spirits, magical incantations and casting spells, potions and drugs.
- **Hatred** – Bitter dislike
- **Variance** – dissensions, discord, quarreling, debating and disputes
- **Emulations** – jealousies, striving to excel at the expense of others, seeking to surpass and out-do others, uncurbed rivalry spirit.
- **Wrath** – indignation, fierceness, turbulent passions, rage, determined and lasting anger
- **Strife** – contention, strenuous endeavor to pay back in kind the wrongs done by others, angry contentions
- **Seditions** – divisions, rioters

- **Heresies** – an opinion held in opposition to a truth revealed
- **Envyings** – jealousy at the blessing or good-fortune of another
- **Murders** – to kill, hatred
- **Drunkennes** – a slave to drink, living intoxicated
- **Revelings** – rioting, lascivious and boisterous feasting, with obscene music, and other sinful (especially sexual) activities, carousing.

THE CHRISTIAN'S RESPONSE TO "THE FLESH"

Romans 8:13. "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die; but, if ye, through the Spirit, do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."

- **IF** – The condition (our duty and responsibility)
- **YE** – The individual Believer (it is a personal choice)
- **THROUGH THE SPIRIT** – The means to escape (for deliverance and victory)
- **MORTIFY THE DEEDS OF THE BODY** – The duty prescribed (the obligation given)
- **YE SHALL LIVE** – The promise given (the end result)

THE PRINCE/THE DEVIL

"Prince" derives from the word "principalities." Both words denote rulership, origin, leadership and fountains. Satan, as Beelzebub, is "lord of the flies," or "prince of the power of the air." Scripture reveals two primary princes: Satan and Michael, the archangel. According to Revelation 12:7 – 9, both of these princes are in charge of a host of angels. As prince, Satan rules over the world system. Henceforth, he is known as "the god/prince of this world."
(John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; 2 Corinthians 4:4.)

* REFERENCES:

Love Not the World, by Watchman Nee

The Spiritual Man, by Watchman Nee

Sin and Temptation, by John Owens

These books can be found at: www.godswordalive.net / Bible Study Resources / Classics

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