

# L2 | "According to This World" | Ephesians 2:1-3

## I. Intro/Review:

- This world and the world to come
  - Defining of terms - age, earth, all of creation, world system
  - Our focus is that which is done on the earth, in this age, regarding the world system and affairs

## II. Preview:

1. To learn that which is "according to this world"
  1. The Beginning of the world - the foundation of the world
  2. Sin enter the world and death by sin
  3. The prince of the world - the prince of the power of the air
    - The god of this world
  4. The spirit of the world
    - To gain the whole world
    - The things of the world

## III. Sermon:

1. To learn that which is "according to this world"
  - Eph. 2:1-3 - "And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; wherein in time 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 of disobedience: among whom also we all had our conversation 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."
    1. Trespasses and sins are "according" to this world, "according" to the prince of the power of the air and his spirit that works.
    2. Trespasses and sin in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind
    3. These things are "according to this world". And who had power to change the world and its things that it may become "this world" and things according to it?
1. **The Beginning of the World - the foundation of the world**
  - Acts 15:18 - "Known unto God are all His works from the beginning of the world."
  - Eph. 3:9 - "And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world..."

- Ps. 102:25 - "Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands." (Heb. 1:10)
  - Matt. 25:34 - "...kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:"
1. God made the world
    - Acts 17:24 - "God that made the world and all things therein,"
    - Jn. 1:1-3 - "...all things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made."
  2. God made a world without sin and death
    - Rom. 5:12 - "Wherefore, 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:"

## 2. Sin Entered the World and Death by Sin

- Rom. 5:12 - "Wherefore, 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:"
    - One man and the first man sin entered but not without enticement
      1. Who was the enticement by?
      2. How does the enticement work?
      3. What is the goal of the enticement?
1. **Who was the enticement by?**
    - 2 Cor. 11:3 - "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."
    - Gen. 3:1-6
  2. **How does the enticement work? (Lust)**
    1. Godly lust and ungodly lust
      - Gal. 5:17 - "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would."
    2. Description of mechanics
      - Blind you to the truthfulness of what God made and what He made it for and to thus fulfill such contrariness in thought and/or deed.
    3. Example
      - James 1:13-15 - "...But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."
        - Lust pre-conception
        - Lust and conception - sin

- Lust and post-conception - death
- Uses what is to be directed in love and worship to God for that which God made and using what God has made without retaining God in their knowledge.

#### 4. Darkness

- Subtlety alters the truthfulness of a thing and blinds one to the contrariness of God that is being offered - in order that one may sin, die, and that such an activity would persist by the sinner loving the evil deed he/she is engaging in.

### 3. What is the goal of enticement?

- Conceive sin and finish death
- Therefore, such lust, sin, and death become part of "this world".

### 3. **The god of this world** - 2 Cor. 4

- Other titles - "the prince of the power of the air" (Eph. 2:2), "the prince of the world" (Jn. 12:31, 14:30, 16:11)
- Isa. 14; Eze. 28
- The dominion and power given to man by his creation and office is usurped by the power of death
  - Heb. 2:14 - "...that through death He might destroy Him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;"
- Modus Operandi - "darkness"
- Luke 4:6 - "And the devil said unto Him, "All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it."
  - Men in offices of authority in their kingdoms
  - Yet, is this the real "power"?

### 4. **The spirit of this world**

- What is "the spirit of this world"?
  - Singular "spirit" made up of "things" plural
  - 1 Cor. 2
- A spirit framed and directed by death, sin, and lusts
  - Matthew 16:13-27 - "Gain the whole world"
    - Gain
      - Php. 3:7, 1 Tim. 6:5-10
      - Eph. 4:17-19 - "greediness"

- Psa. 17:12 - Like as a lion that is greedy of his prey, and as it were a young lion lurking in secret places.
- Pro. 1:19 - So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof.
- Pro. 15:27 - He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live.
- Isa. 56:11 - Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter.
- 1Tim. 3:3 - Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;
- 1Tim. 3:8 - Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;
- The spirit of God gives us things of gain outside the realm of death, sin, and lusts thus not temporal things but eternal, not fleshly but spiritual, not earthly but heavenly.
- Eph. 2:1-3
  1. "the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" (Eph. 4)
  2. "among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind."
- Titus 3:1-3

#### IV. Conclusion:

- The beginning of the world
- The beginning of this world
- Lusts, sin, and death
- The god of this world
- The spirit of this world