

I want to start a new series for the next 5 weeks, leading up to our elections in the first week in November. If you've been here for any length of time, you will know that although I do speak about things that could seem to be of a political nature, that I am not partisan and I view things concerning politics from a spiritual and biblical perspective. The last message in this series on November 1st will be more directly dealing with our government, our laws and our elections; but the messages prior will have more to do with other challenges we face which I will call "The Dangers of this World."

What I'm referring to is our "World System" which has been heavily influenced by the demonic realm. Satan is referred to in the Bible as the *"god of this world."* Adam and Eve, had been given dominion over the earth in the Garden, but with 'original sin' gave control over the earth to the devil. Jesus took back the keys from the devil in-between His death and resurrection when he went to Sheol [Hades] and gave authority to Christians and the Church to reclaim what was lost in the Garden. Our main passage for the end of the last series we just finished was *"Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world."* (1st John 4:4)

"And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case 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." -2nd Corinthians 4:3-4 (emphasis mine)

"We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one." -1st John 5:19 (cf. Revelation 12:9)

If you recall from some of my sermons, I have referred to the "3 Battlegrounds" that a Christian will fight in and the 3 enemies they must face: Satan and the demonic realm, the World, and our Flesh (Carnal nature). We face temptations on each of these battlefields on a daily basis. The demonic realm will throw 'fiery darts' at us all day long and pull at our flesh to give into our carnal nature. The World also will tempt us to live our lives selfishly, by getting us to focus on our own success, happiness, fulfillment, etc.

"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. 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 world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever."
-1st John 2: 15-17 (cf. James 4:4)

The term "worldly" used to be commonly spoken in most church cultures, in relationship to someone who is fixated on material possessions or money or comfort, living in excess: alcohol, drugs, sensuality, partying lifestyle, etc. In short, someone who puts their own desires and pleasures above God and the Kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33/Colossians 1:18). They sought after everything or many things that unbelievers in the world sought after.