
BEWARE
of the World's System

By: Anthony Martin

GCM Resource Center
grace-christian.org

Dedication

*We want to dedicate the efforts of this writing to the ONE who loves us, forgave us,
and gave His life for us. It is our privilege to further His cause in our day.*

--Galatians 2:20

Grace Christian Ministries

Beware of the World's System

Come out of her my People

And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. Revelation 18:4-5

The Lord has been calling his people to come out of the trappings of the world's system since the inception of the earth. There is a difference between the earth and the world's system. The earth is the creative work of God; whereas the world system functions through the vanity and wickedness that works in the mind and becomes manifested in human behavior. Its architect and designer is the devil, who was an angel who fell from heaven.

*12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!
How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!*

13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

*15 Yet thou shall be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.
Isaiah 14:12-15*

Count the number of times this fallen angel used the phrase, “I will” in the above verses. You got it! He used it five times to express what was alive in his heart. This is how he framed the world’s system that we live in today—by focusing on exalted and self-inflated thinking. His desire was to be like God and even though he couldn’t, his attitude never changed about ruling and dictating. He devised a system that would empower his every desire, fantasy, and imagination. It’s a system where every imagination and thought that is conceived in the heart may come to pass. It is a system where complete autonomy can be fostered, encouraged, and validated.

The devil is behind the World’s System

It is a system of overconsumption and very little time for God. This type of system was first established in the mind of the god of this world (the devil) and it later became his creative work. How does one enter into this system; or maybe we should reverse the question—how does this system enter into a

person? It's created in the mind before it's ever manifested in the physical or practical environment. Notice what God said about this fallen angel in the beginning of verse 13—*for thou has said in thine heart...* The moment this happened his submission toward God diminished and he became morally lost. Verse 13 continues, *"I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God..."* How did he go from being on the *"holy mountain of God"* (*Ezekiel 28:14*) to believing he could exalt his throne above the stars of God? He obviously became over-inflated and self-centered, which he would later use as a device in appealing to the unhealthy desires mankind (*Genesis 3:1-6*).

The moment this fallen angel became isolated in his thinking apart from the order of God, he was driven out from heaven. Jesus said in *Luke 10:18*, *"I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven."* No wonder he is referred to in scripture as the god of this world (*II Corinthians 4:4*). He is the overseer of a world's system that is evil and corrupt at its root. It is a system that influences one to project his thoughts and feelings over established and ordained order. Once this happens, love for God ceases, and the individual is cut off from His presence.

Evil becomes the inherent nature of the separated and detached individual. The position of the person changes spiritually, practically, and emotionally. *Isaiah 12:14-15* declares, “*yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.*” Take a look at the phrase, “*brought down*” this means God took him from heaven and his nature changed. What we must understand about God is there’s no substitute for His order of things. He will not honor ambitions or desires that are conceived from self-exalted thinking. Take a look at what God declares about His son, Jesus Christ in *Colossians 1:16-17*; *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*

The above passage indicates the creative work of God, through Jesus Christ concerning the spirit realm, and the natural order of things in the earth. God is the sole authority over his creative work (*Romans 1:20*). There is no room for self-exalted thinking or rule. God does not play with his authority and the moment Satan (also known as the devil) flirted with the

idea of “*being like the most high...*” he fell from heaven (*Luke 10:18*). Self-indulgent thinking and behavior is a perpetuation of the devil’s sin against God. He has devised a system that promotes a rejection of God’s words and influence, by attempting to appeal to the sensual appetites of human beings (*Genesis 3:1-6*).

As followers of Jesus Christ it is vital that we develop spiritual thinking and live out the words written to us in the Holy Bible. This is a discipline that needs daily application. We will often face temptations from the flesh that encourages pride and self-reliance; however, we are to depend on the words of the Holy Bible for guidance. When we study what God wrote about various subjects that pertain to heavenly and earthly matters, it will provide the perspective needed to develop godly thinking (*II Peter 1:3-4*). Furthermore, when we examine, evaluate, and think on the written text we are training our minds with God’s Words. If this is done effectively; it will replace subjective, self-centered thinking, and add God’s objectives and His perspectives.

It is critical that we avoid and reject self-centered thinking because this supports the philosophy of the world's system. The lifestyle of self-reliance based upon beauty, talent, wealth, and intelligence apart from God, is exactly what the devil is hoping for. His attitude toward humanity is to destroy us; while God's attitude through His son, Jesus Christ is to give us abundant life (*John 10:10*). The devil is evil and wicked to the core. His goal is to tempt and mislead human beings to disobey God's written word (*Genesis 3:1-6*).

Have you ever found yourself paying attention to vain or self-centered desires over what's really important in your life? The devil's objective is to lift you up with pride and conceit. He wants to turn you into a vain person who only cares about yourself. He wants to wound your key relationships. He wants you to turn toward your own counsel on life's issues and trap you into isolation so you will turn to unhealthy pleasures. He wants to ruin every area of your life. This is something that God understands better than us all. This is why God seeks to enter our lives through his son, Jesus Christ. He created this fallen angel and knows the degree of evil that is in him. Take a

look at God's Word and how it gives important details about this fallen angel who is now the devil.

13 Thou has been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou was created.

14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

Ezekiel 28:13-17

The above passage was spoken about the King of Tyrus due to the pride and hardness of his heart (*Ezekiel 28:12*). Yet,

God saw the very nature of the devil and spoke words that identified him, giving important details surrounding his fall. God openly exposed the downfall of this fallen angel (the devil), that every generation would know and be aware of the kind of evil that lives in him.

The degenerate and morally depraved conditions of this world are under the regulation of the devil. He prides himself on converting mankind to his method of thinking by indoctrinating and encouraging self-centered thinking. Humanity was never created to live independent of God's influence (*Genesis 1:26*); however, many are blinded in their minds and have rejected the opportunity to enter into God's light (*II Corinthians 4:4*), (*John 3:18-21*).

What happened in the Garden of Eden in Genesis chapter three was a fatal moment for mankind. The devil went after the thoughts and emotions of this first married couple (*see Genesis 3:1-6*). He targeted their innocence by using deception, which is a tactic that plays on the mind and emotions. These two regions directly influence your human will and conduct.

How you think and feel motivates you to will and do. All of your decisions will be based upon what you give your mind to process. The mind is an essential component toward obedience to God's Will. Notice the wording in *Romans 12:2*;

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

God cares about our thought processes and knows our decisions will be based upon the condition of our minds. He exhorts us in the above passage not to become “*conformed to this world.*” He is telling us not to think like this world's system and do not become affectionate with it. Why did he warn us to avoid conformity to this world? The word conform means to become like. It means to pattern oneself after. God knows how the mind works because he created it with neurological and moral capability. He knows the mind or the soul is the central place of all human decisions. God also provides our minds with healthy inspiration that is necessary for doctrinal learning, correction, and instruction in righteousness (*II Timothy 3:16-17*). He wants to put a stop to moral failure by giving us the

scriptures. These words keep us from becoming deceived by the world's system and its influences.

Did you know that a follower of Jesus Christ could be tempted to rely on self-centered thinking and reject God's word? Let's consider what our Lord was faced with as recorded *Matthew 4:1-11*;

¹ Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

² And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

³ And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

⁴ But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

⁵ Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

⁶ And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

⁷ *Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.*

⁸ *Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;*

⁹ *And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.*

¹⁰ *Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*

¹¹ *Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.*

The Lord Jesus knew how to protect and guard his mind by allowing the words that come from God to influence it. He chose to embrace the scriptures as his primary source and reference for earthly life. On each attempt of the devil, Jesus referred to what was written to combat deceptive words. He models for us, the power over deceit and ungodly influence. When studying *Matthew 4:1-8*, we see that the devil also tried to place Jesus' attention on selfish desires. In *verse two*, he said, "*if thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.*" He attempted to focus Jesus' attention on disobeying God's Word to fulfill himself (his hunger).

In *verses eight and nine* the devil tried to entice Jesus by offering all the “*kingdoms of the world and the glory of them*”; yet, it came with the following condition: “*if thou will fall down and worship me.*” This type of deception is something that he also attempts on the followers of Jesus Christ. As you read in *Matthew 4:1-11*, he tries to divert attention away from God’s Word by focusing our minds on objects for selfish gain.

The devil tempts people to depend on themselves (apart from fellowship with God) and to rely on their own methods. He will attempt to get people to focus on their own personal beliefs and pursue vanities, which cause abandonment of spiritual thinking and living. It’s a deviation from the Kingdom and knowledge of God. It has all the trappings of a superficial and secular existence. However, the correct application of God’s Word will defeat temptation.

In conclusion, the world’s system seduces human beings to live out the pleasures and vanities of their minds, absent of the presence of God. It’s an imitation of the life that God came to give every human being. It’s a temporary life that caters to

inordinate desires and affections. The world's system is controlled and dominated by a master deceiver (the devil). It does not come with promises—only temporal and short-lived vanities. All throughout the history of this earth men and women have become trapped and ensnared by this system. Their moral lives were compromised by participating in a philosophy that caters to every imagination and unholy desire possible. There is truly a need for enlightenment and hope for those who are under this type of ungodly influence.

The followers of Jesus Christ can be advocates for change, providing we yield to the Holy Spirit (*John 16:7-14*). We can share and testify with unbelievers about the wonderful opportunity they have to be saved from this world's system. We have been given the ministry of reconciliation, whereby we can help others get back to God (*II Corinthians 5:17-20*). There are people in our families, in our careers, in our communities, and those we just generally encounter who are blinded by this system. They live only for themselves, their pleasures, and what is right in their own minds. This is the only type of life they know and they are unaware of the hope that is in Jesus Christ.

Beware of the World's System

grace-christian.org

This is where you can make a decision to be a visible example of God's saving power and declare the gospel of Jesus Christ. Your witness can make a difference.

References

The Holy Bible: King James, Amplified, New American, New International Parallel Bible. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing, 1999.
