

CONTINUING THE “GREEN LETTERS”

FALL : 2023 - SPRING: 2024

CHAPTERS 34-35, pgs. 158-166

34 - THE WORLD AND ITS PRINCE

Two deadly enemies - the w _____ and S _____

By the world we mean, this present e _____ world s _____ made up of

1) The l _____ of the f _____

2) The l _____ of the e _____

3) The p _____ of l _____

The world system is l _____ in the w _____ o _____. The whole world system is comfortable with the liar who is in complete rebellion to God. The world system is so corrupt that any one in love with it does not have the love of the Father in him. The one who is a friend of the world is the enemy of God.(James 4:4)

THE WORLDLY CHRISTIAN

It is in the environment of this world that the Adam-nature (old man, old nature) is at h _____ and f _____. p 158

The believer who is dominated by the old nature is bound to be worldly. p 158. This believer thinks that by acting worldly like his unbelieving counterpart he will draw him to the unworldly Savior

The other side of being a worldly Christian dominated by the old nature is the “try harder” believer who tries to serve God through self-effort using legalistic measures. p 158
See Col 2:20 ff

Fleshly means are f _____, whether utilized to w _____ the world, or to a _____ the world.

THE CHRIST-CENTERED CHRISTIAN

Since the believer is born of God, his source is God, not the world. He is not of the world and cannot be at home with it when dominated by the Christ in him.

The r _____ L _____ J _____ is the abiding place and environment of our new nature, and it is that life we are

to walk, "for our citizenship is in heaven. (Phil 3:20, NASB) p 159

To escape from the reign and corroding influence of the world we must count on the w _____ of the c _____, by which we were c _____ to the world, and the world c _____ to us (Gal 6:14) p 159

The source of our Christian life is neither in the worldly nature, nor the worldly system; we are to look to another world for all our resources. p 159 See Col 3:1-3

SATAN

Both the c _____ and the r _____ L _____ J _____ separate us from the reign of Satan. p 160

At Calvary we d _____ o _____ of his kingdom of darkness and death; in the resurrection we were b _____ into the Son's kingdom of light and life p 160

Our strategy to defeat Satan is threefold: R _____, S _____, R _____

Satan would seek to b _____ us out of our p _____ of safety; but we are to r _____ him p 160

Our resistance to the Enemy is on the basis of f _____, f _____ in the work of the c _____ in which he was doomed and his power broken. Through our r _____, his defeat at Calvary is applied and we are made to triumph. p 160

We are to s _____ in our p _____, "hid with Christ in God," that we may be "strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might." p 160-161

We simply stand where we have been p _____, abiding above, resisting his assaults and fiery darts through f _____ in the V _____ who defeated him and all his cohorts. We humbly walk in the train of His t _____. p 161

'Many believers, not knowing of, nor abiding in, their position in the triumphant Lord Jesus, attempt to war against and defeat the devil and his demons" with the wrong weapons of self-effort and fear or false courage. By this

Satan gets “bigger” because the believer is focused on Satan and the problems. Here, he is larger than the Lord Jesus Christ!

Our responsibility is to steadfastly resist the Enemy by quietly resting in our impregnable p_____ in Christ. Several times daily, call to your remembrance what the Bible says is true about your position in Christ. This is what it means to abide in Christ and letting His words abide in you. (I have created a daily affirmation of faith that is a good tool to get this truth embedded in your life, thinking and heart memory.)

35 - TRANSPLANTATION

Ro 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. (NKJV)

It is not mere chance that things just seem to work out. It is God who works all things together for good but it is specifically for those who love God and are His called ones for His purpose.

What does “good” mean? First, it does not mean that He is going to make everything pleasant for His people! He allowed His own Son to make the offering of His life AND experience separation from Him! But He worked out the “good” of the resurrection for Christ and the salvation of millions of people through that suffering.

God’s goal for you is not your happiness but c_____ you to the image of His S_____. That is the greatest ultimate good for any human being - to be just like Jesus. So when God is working things together for the good, this is the good He has in mind. A believer may experience loss or pain, greater or lesser, through an event or even a series of events, but with the believer trusting in Christ He will be made more like Christ. He uses even Satan to better develop our faith or our use of the faith tools He has given us.

DOWNWARD PROGRESS

Any strong plant must have a good root system; any building that withstands storms must have a deep foundation. Jesus taught this Himself. The believer must sink his roots deep into Christ. This involves the believer finally realizing that he will never defeat the old nature and

reckoning on his final death through Christ. That sometimes takes a long time if the believer is somehow convinced he can do this “Christian thing” by his efforts. It requires him knowing that he does not have the strength to overcome this sin nature

LIBERATING LIGHT

When the time is right, the Holy Spirit (who alone knows that time) e_____ the failing believer to the real truth about the reign of sin. It is much like going from childhood into teen years then on to adulthood. He creates a new mindset within the yielded believer that lets him see His victory in Christ.

TURNING POINT

The Holy Spirit uses the p_____ and p_____ of d_____ within to prepare for the development of the resurrection life. The believer begins to hate the works of the flesh in him and recognizes that these works are NOT coming from the new man but the old and that he does not have to live that way anymore. This is humility, the humility that brings God’s powerful life changing grace!

This is what Jesus was teaching when He said if a man tries to save his life, he will lose it. But if he loses his life with Christ, he will save his life!

He cannot change the old man; he must accept the cursed one’s death and the new life that came through the resurrection of Christ.

This recognition of his impossibility to change who he is and the recognition of what Christ has created in him, sets in him roots that will only grow stronger with every yielding to this truth.

UPWARD PROGRESS

When the Holy Spirit has built in us a strong root system through convincing us of our complete need for Christ, then it is He turns our faith to the True Vine.

When we are still i_____, we focus on Christ’s death but as the Holy Spirit enlightens us and faith is birthed, our focus is on the resurrected Christ, who is our life.

Growth comes from life, the resurrection life.

Looking on Him as our life, the Holy Spirit enables us to exchange the old for the new. This completes the transaction of the exchanged life