

*I press on toward the finish line, where the prize waiting for me is the upward call of God IN KING JESUS.* (Philippians 3:14)

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### ***Be Not Loving the World***

I have previously warned about being enticed by the **hedonistic spirit of the world**. One of the definitions of **hedonism** is ***“the doctrine that pleasure or happiness is the sole or chief good or highest goal in life.”*** Some might retort that God does not deny us pleasure, that is, happiness. No argument there! However ...

*Hedonism* has a much stronger connotation than having what could be called *simple pleasures of life* that bring happiness to our souls. I use the term in light of Paul’s warning to his beloved son of the faith, Timothy. As Paul knew his days were about up, he told Timothy what to be on the lookout for after he was gone.

But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For ***men will be lovers of self***, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, ***lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness***, although they have denied its power; avoid such men as these. (2 Timothy 3:1-5 NASB [bold italic added])

According to Paul, some people can so seek after pleasure, generally of the senses, that they no longer love God. In other words, pleasure replaces God as their satisfaction of life to the point of them justifying it as a form of godliness. We hear this even today from some who claim the name of Jesus and yet expend most of their energy seeking after money and the pleasures they can buy with it. This is not uncommon among those who preach **a false gospel of prosperity**, as they proclaim: “God doesn’t want us to be poor or to be deprived of all the good things of life.” By the way, the list of good things includes private jets, luxury cars, and mansions (mostly for the ones preaching the message). Such love denies the power of godliness, which is based in the love of God.

Paul was not alone in his warning, for John offered one, as well, to his little children.

***Be not [habitually] loving the world*** [the ordered beast system], neither that which is in the world. ***If ever anyone is loving the world, the love of the Father is not in him***, for everything that is in the world, the desire [full passion; lust] of the flesh, and the desire [full passion; lust] of the eyes, and the ostentation of living, is not of the Father, but is of the world.” And ***the world is passing by, and its desire, yet he who is doing the will of God is remaining for the eon*** [age].” (1 John 2:15-17 CLV [added])

The age in which John and his brethren lived was indeed passing away as the age of Moses was about to give way to the age of Christ in 70 AD. The world that dominated the Jewish life, which most of the apostles grew up in, in Judea and the surrounding areas, was soon to crumble at the behest of God who sent the Roman army to destroy all that Jerusalem had stood for in relation to the economy of Moses. In 70 AD, it all crumbled to destruction.

Using the poetic, metaphorical language of the ancient prophets, **their heaven and earth passed away**. Notice that heaven and earth did not literally pass away; it was the religious order traced back to Moses that did. The cross, some forty years earlier, inaugurated this passing away. When those nails went into Jesus' hands and feet, it was as if the nails were being pounded into the coffin of the Mosaic era, with the last blow coming in September 70 AD.

We are living in a very similar day as we witness our heaven and earth passing away. Man's order built over the last two millennia has run its course. A new order is coming. We could say that it is a *new world order*, but it is not the *NWO* that the global elitists have been driving to create and are now pushing to implement with all their totalitarian demands and propaganda. A new heaven and a new earth are coming—a totally new world order called the ***Kingdom of God***.

Be assured, our present age is passing away and a new age is coming, making John's warning just as germane, if not more so, to us as it was then. The current world system and its structures are crumbling before our very eyes—if we have eyes to see it. The word to us is to not be loving the *kosmos* (orderly arrangement) or the world system that could be called a *beast system*, for it has the nature of a wild beast that seeks to devour its prey. Don't love it, for it doesn't love you. Love the one who loves His very good creation. And, if you want to know the true nature of **God's kingdom (His heaven-earth system)**, then do His will while living in this age, for if you do, you will be prepared for ***the kingdom of the Son of His love***.

One final word: Today, there are probably many who believe what is coming is a literal destruction of creation itself—that is, the space-time universe and its elements are about to be melted by intense heat. This is not what is coming. To reiterate, what is coming is a dramatic change in the way life is conducted on earth, and it is all for the very good. The earth and all its inhabitants are about to experience the very life of God's Son, the one through whom all things came into being. God's Son is the Life of the world.

By the way, just in case you forgot: His name is ***Yeshua—Jesus***. [\*\*\*Proclaim the Name!\*\*\*](#)