

# PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Newsletter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

*Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 KJV)*

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## As the World Turns

Art Nelson

There is a soap-opera called “As the Word Turns” and it has been around for a long time. I remember my Mother was hooked on this one when I was young. I think she still watches it today and she is now 90 years old.

The “tagline” or meaning of the title was that we live our lives day to day or “as the world turns” and, of course, the lives of the soap characters are a convoluted mess every day—so tune in tomorrow to see what happens “as the world turns”.

We live our lives for real, not as soap characters, but we are still subject to “as the world turns”. Jesus specifically prayed that we would not be taken out of the world but kept, that is, protected in the world. Even though we live in the world, we are not a part of the world. As a consequence, we who belong to Christ, do not have to be subject to the forces that drive the daily life of those we live “as the world turns”. What are those forces? The Scriptures refer to them as “the world” (Greek word is *kosmos*), which means the “world system”. This is what John was referring to:

1 John 2:15 NASB

(15) 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.

The “world” to which John is referring is different or, rather has a different meaning, than the “world” that God so loved that He gave His Son for it. The “world” that God loves is people; the Son was given to redeem people, for the world, as such, is passing away and one day will be replaced with a new earth.

John is speaking of the “world” as it relates to one of the meanings of the Greek word, *kosmos*, which is “an orderly, systematic array”. The world systems are under the control of the one that developed them. Satan is called the god of this world because he is the creator of the world systems. These were created for Satan's own purposes and are not compatible with God, so if we love the world system, the love of the Father is not in us.

Because our enemy has constructed the world systems, they are built with a purpose in mind. That purpose involves them being *attractive* to the nature of man. When the enemy tempted Eve in the Garden he saw an aspect of the nature of man that could be intensified and exploited by him. This was revealed while Eve pondered the temptation from the enemy: “. . .the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise. . .” (Genesis 3:6 NASB)

Realizing how integral this is to the nature of man, the enemy took it and began to build the world system operating under the kingdom of darkness to appeal to this aspect of man. Our enemy is not a creative being. He has no power in that area, so when something works, he is inclined to use it over and over again, operating under the philosophy of “if it ain't broke don't fix it”. John gives us the result of this.

### 1 John 2:16 NASB

(16) 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.

These three areas, 1) lust of the flesh, 2) lust of the eyes, 3) boastful pride of life, exemplify the fullness of the world system's ability to appeal to the nature of man. As you can see from the Genesis verse quoted above, there is a direct correlation between what Eve pondered and these three areas that sum up all that is in the world. And John explicitly says that this is not from the Father. Anything that is not from the Father only has one other source to which it could belong and that is to the enemy of our souls.

The ongoing conflict between the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness is fought on the battlefields of the hearts of men. The Lord has designed His Kingdom in such a way that we have to have a new spirit to even see it and we have to lose our life in order to find it. We have to seek His Kingdom before anything else, search for it like we are searching for a treasure hidden in a field. We have to come under His government and be obedient to His commands. We give up our ambitions and assume the responsibility of doing the work that He has, beforehand, prepared for us. We are integrally involved in the pursuit of the Kingdom of God and His purposes in the earth and when we find this Pearl of Great Price, we must sell everything else that is less in order to possess it.

The kingdom of darkness, however, is easy to find. It is revealed as the world systems in which we live and function. It is the broad way that leads to destruction. It is the way that seems right to a man. It is the way that, seemingly, satisfies all of the sinful cravings of man's heart. It is the way that offers salvation, security, and provision by the accumulation of money. It is the way for which men sell their souls in order to live in physical luxury and power.

The enemy has to operate his kingdom in a different manner than the Lord because he is not god, just a created being. The enemy does not have a Holy Spirit that is everywhere, revealing and directing men according to the purposes of God. Instead, the enemy must construct various systems to provide control, input and direction to men so that they will continue to serve his purposes. Every spiritual aspect of the functions of the Kingdom of God has a substitute or counterfeit system, process, or procedure in the kingdom of darkness that will allow men to live their lives apart from the purpose of God.

Let's create a table that contrasts some of the key aspects of the Kingdom of God with the

kingdom of darkness and the world systems.

<b>Kingdom of God</b>	<b>Kingdom of Darkness</b>
The ruler is Jesus	The ruler is Satan
Established in the hearts of men in mystery form, will be physically present during the millennium	Established in the world to appeal to the hearts of men
Expresses the character of God	Expresses the character of man
Designed by God to subdue all enemies and provide the benevolent rule of God	Designed by the enemy to be attractive to man's nature
The basis of relationship is loving another more than yourself	The basis of relationship is domination, manipulation and control
Values people and relationships	Values things
Value expressed by giving, receiving, and holding things in common	Value expressed by buying, selling, and accumulating
Citizens are sons of God	Citizens are sons of disobedience
Citizens function as priests, serving God and serving others	Citizens function as dominators, serving themselves and abusing others
Provides righteousness, peace and joy as its primary benefits	Provides ambition, power, and control as its primary benefits
The objective is to sum up all in Christ and express His government to all creation	The objective is to provide an alternative to God that expresses the glory of man to all creation
Operates by the power of the Holy Spirit and the Risen Christ	Operates by the power of witchcraft and money
Jesus recognized as Lord and King	Money recognized as lord and king
Fully dependent upon God as the source of all things	Fully dependent upon man and the power within him as the source of all
Fulfills the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus	Fulfills the cravings of man's sinful nature

When these aspects of the two kingdoms are laid out side by side like this, it becomes obvious how many things are direct opposites, contrasts by nature and function.

The world systems are reaching their evolutionary end. The final ruler of the world system is the Antichrist, to whom Satan gives his power. He arises as “a little horn”, that is, an insignificant king or ruler. He only directly overthrows three other rulers; yet, he gains authority over the whole earth. How can this be done? I think that the way that it will be done is that the

Antichrist will gain control of the primary world systems. There are seven of these:

1. Banking and Finance—the Monetary System
2. Art, Education, and Entertainment—the Cultural System
3. Communications, Transportation—the Energy System
4. Political and Military System
5. Religious System
6. Law—the Legal System
7. Medicine—the Health System

The world systems have not completed their evolution so we don't see all of these as clearly defined as we will see them in the future.

The Beast in Revelation 13:1 is a global kingdom that will arise. The seven heads, I believe, are the seven world systems that allow the global kingdom to operate. The Antichrist will assume control of these systems through the Religious System.

Discussion of this will need to wait on a different time, but, for now, we need to see that the enemy has designed the world systems for his own purposes and that they are designed to be attractive to the nature of man and that, in the end, they are being prepared as a tool for the Antichrist to gain his dominion. All of this is by design. So, yes, there is a conspiracy, the source of which is Satan. You are not paranoid if they really are out to get you!

However, the Lord has his own design and work. His Kingdom is being established; His Church is being built; His Bride is making herself ready. Brethren, the “days of our lives” are not confined to “as the world turns”. God has set eternity in our hearts; He has called us to a glorious high calling. He has shown His love for us by calling us His sons, and, if sons, then heirs of the world to come.

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For comments or questions contact Art Nelson at this address:  
[artnelson@lifestreamteaching.com](mailto:artnelson@lifestreamteaching.com)

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