

LOST
(Part 3 of 6)

Third, man is considered lost and dead because of his relationship to the world. All unsaved people are citizens of this world. They love this world system and are opposed to all who are not part of it. They may not express their opposition in a verbal manner, but that opposition is there whether it is verbal or not. The Greek noun for world is “Kosmos” in John’s Gospel and he used this noun in respect to people who hold to a position or an organized system hostile to God. All members of the human family are related to this system unless they have come by faith to Jesus Christ for salvation.

When speaking of this system that all unsaved people have a relationship with Jesus said, “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world [this system that is hostile toward God], the world would love his own [note the pronoun “his” is used to describe this system]: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.” This is that opposition that I previously spoke of. “Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name’s sake, because they know not him [God] that sent me [Jesus]” (John 15:18-21). All unsaved people are lost and dead because of their relationship to the world. Paul when speaking of the former life of the Ephesians said, “Wherein [how] in time past [before salvation] ye walked [lived] according to the course [dictates] of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air [Satan], the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past [before salvation] in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature [this speaks of our relationship to the world] the children of wrath, even as others” (Ephesians 2:2-3).

The unsaved man is conformed to this world. His pleasures are world-centered; his values are of this world; his ambitions are of this world; he is dominated by the philosophy of this age. It has been said, “Man’s dress, his diet, and his desires all reflect the bias and prejudice of his world conformity. He has no desire to bring God into the center of his experience.” This is no doubt what Jesus meant when He spoke in John chapter three, “For God sent not his Son [Jesus] into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved” (John 3:17-20). Therefore, man is considered lost and dead because of his relationship to the world.

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