

A CHRISTIAN'S LOOK AT THE WORLD

Luke 17:32

Liptovský Hrádok, 29th March 2015

Lk 17:32 μνημονεύετε τῆς γυναικὸς Λωτ	Lk 17:32 Remember Lot's wife .
Mt 6:19-24 Μὴ θησαυρίζετε ὑμῖν θησαυροὺς ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, ὅπου σὴς καὶ βρῶσις ἀφανίζει καὶ ὅπου κλέπται διορύσσουσιν καὶ κλέπτουσιν. ²⁰ θησαυρίζετε δὲ ὑμῖν θησαυροὺς ἐν οὐρανῶ, ὅπου οὔτε σὴς οὔτε βρῶσις ἀφανίζει καὶ ὅπου κλέπται οὐ διορύσσουσιν οὐδὲ κλέπτουσιν. ²¹ ὅπου γὰρ ἐστὶν ὁ θησαυρὸς σου, ἐκεῖ ἔσται καὶ ἡ καρδιά σου ²² Ὁ λύχνος τοῦ σώματός ἐστιν ὁ ὀφθαλμός· ἂν οὖν οὖν ἢ ὁ ὀφθαλμός σου ἀπλοῦς, ὅλον τὸ σῶμά σου φωτεινὸν ἔσται. ²³ ἂν δὲ ὁ ὀφθαλμός σου ποιηρὸς ἢ, ὅλον τὸ σῶμά σου σκοτεινὸν ἔσται εἰ οὖν τὸ φῶς τὸ ἐν σοὶ σκότος ἐστίν, τὸ σκότος πόσον ²⁴ Οὐδεὶς δύναται δυοὶ κυρίοις δουλεύειν· ἢ γὰρ τὸν ἓνα μισήσει καὶ τὸν ἕτερον ἀγαπήσει, ἢ ἐνὸς ἀνθέξεται καὶ τοῦ ἑτέρου καταφρονήσει οὐ δύνασθε θεῶ δουλεύειν καὶ μαμωνᾶ	Mt 6:19-24 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust ¹ destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²² "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, ²³ but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! ²⁴ "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.
Lk 10:41-42 Μάρθα Μάρθα, μεριμνᾷς καὶ θορυβάζῃ περὶ πολλὰ, ⁴² ἐνὸς δέ ἐστιν χρεια·	Lk 10:41-42 ..."Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, ⁴² but <u>one thing</u> is necessary...
Jn 17:15 οὐκ ἐρωτῶ ἵνα ἄρῃς αὐτοὺς ἐκ τοῦ κόσμου, ἀλλ' ἵνα τηρήσῃς αὐτοὺς ἐκ τοῦ ποιηροῦ	Jn 17:15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.
Rom 12:12 τῇ ἐλπίδι χαίροντες,...	Rom 12:12 Rejoice in hope...
Rev 2:12-13 Καὶ τῷ ἀγγέλῳ τῆς ἐν Περγάμῳ ἐκκλησίας γράψον· Τάδε λέγει ὁ ἔχων τὴν ῥομφαίαν τὴν δίστομον τὴν ὀξεῖαν. ¹³ οἶδα ποῦ κατοικεῖς, ὅπου ὁ θρόνος τοῦ σατανᾶ	Rev 2:12-13 And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: 'The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword. ¹³ "I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is.

OUTLINE

0. INTRODUCTION:

- 0.1. WHAT IS "THE WORLD"?
- 0.2. THE PARADOX OF THE WORLD
- 0.3. LIES ABOUT THE WORLD
- 0.4. CRUCIFIXION = THE END OF THE WORLD!

1. THE WORLD AS BATTLEGROUND → PEACE (SHABBAT) IN HEAVEN

- 1.1. DELIVERANCE
- 1.2. ARMOUR
- 1.3. FIGHT FOR VICTORY

2. THE WORLD AS TRAINING GROUND → PERFECTION IN HEAVEN

- 2.1. DESIRE FOR PERFECTION
- 2.2. EFFORT TO GET PERFECTION
- 2.3. THE WORLD HELPS YOU TO REACH PERFECTION

3. THE WORLD AS SOWING FIELD → REAPING IN HEAVEN

- 3.1. WILLINGNESS TO WORK
- 3.2. CONCENTRATION AND PERSEVERANCE
- 3.3. OPPORTUNITIES

4. TO REMEMBER

0. INTRODUCTION:

- **Lk 17:32** Remember **Lot's wife**. (Luke 17:31 In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. → Remember Lot's wife.)

0.1. WHAT IS "THE WORLD"?

- κόσμος ↔ αἰών

[TOZER] Since the fall of man the earth has been a disaster area and everyone lives with a critical emergency. Nothing is normal. Everything is wrong and everyone is wrong until made right by the redeeming work of Christ and the effective operation of the Holy Spirit. The universal disaster of the Fall compels us to think differently about our obligation to our fellow men. What would be entirely permissible under normal conditions becomes wrong in the present situation, and many things not otherwise required are necessary because of abnormal conditions.¹

0.2. THE PARADOX OF THE WORLD

- "good" creation (Gn 1) = we can't be totally negative about it = it's a place of training, space to be won for the Lord etc. (see below: Battleground)
- "God's glory" (Is 6)
- **Mal 1:11** from the rising of the sun to its setting my name is great among the nations (גְּדוֹלַת שְׁמִי בַּגּוֹיִם)
- God loved the world (Jn 3:16) ↔ Do not love the world! (1Jn 2:15)
- lying in the evil (**1Jn 5:19** We know that we are from God, and the **whole world** lies in the power of the evil one. ὁ κόσμος ὅλος ἐν τῷ πονηρῷ κείται)

0.3. LIES ABOUT THE WORLD

- heaven *now!* (HEINE) (secularized eschatology)
- "no problems" living – progress in technology → progress in wisdom; prosperity...
- false solutions – without Christ; scientism; anthropocentrism

0.4. CRUCIFIXION = THE END OF THE WORLD

- **2Cor 5:14** ...we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died;
- (1) all have died...
- (2) we have concluded...

[TOZER] We are not called to fellowship with nonexistence. We are called to things that exist in truth, to positive things, and it is as we become occupied with these that health comes to the soul. Spiritual life cannot feed on negatives. The man who is constantly reciting the evils of his unconverted days is looking in the wrong direction. He is like a man trying to run a race while looking back over his shoulder. ...Right here is where the weakness of much current Christianity lies. We have not learned where to lay our emphasis. Particularly we have not understood that we are saved to know God, to enter His wonder-filled Presence through the new and living way and remain in that Presence forever. We are called to an everlasting preoccupation with God. The Triune God with all of His mystery and majesty is ours and we are His, and eternity will not be long enough to experience all that He is of goodness, holiness and truth.²

1. THE WORLD AS BATTLEGROUND → PEACE (SHABBAT) IN HEAVEN

- False hopes: perpetual peace; happiness (שְׁלוֹמִים)
- Eph 6 (D M Lloyd-Jones)
- The look of a soldier → dangers; potential for conquest

1.1. DELIVERANCE

- **Mt 6:13** deliver us from evil ⇒ the CROSS

1.2. ARMOUR

- Eph 6 ⇒ in Christ

¹ TOZER, A. W. *That Incredible Christian*, Harrisburg : Christian Publications, 1964, p. 104.

² TOZER, A. W. *That Incredible Christian*,

- **Eph 6:10-18** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

1.3. FIGHT FOR VICTORY

- **2Cor 6:7** ...by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left;
- **1Co 15:56-57** The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the **victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. THE WORLD AS TRAINING GROUND → PERFECTION IN HEAVEN

- False hopes: perfect life; no sin; no failures; no problems
- Discipleship (**Mt 10:25** It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher)
- The look of a disciple → potential for learning, improvement

2.1. DESIRE FOR PERFECTION

- **Mt 5:48** You therefore must **be perfect**, as your heavenly **Father is perfect**.

2.2. EFFORT TO GET PERFECTION

- **Phil 3:13-14** Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lays ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

2.3. THE WORLD HELPS YOU TO REACH PERFECTION

- **James 1:2-4** Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds (πειρασμοῖς περιπέσητε ποικίλοις), ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete (τέλειοι καὶ ὀλόκληροι), lacking in nothing.

3. THE WORLD AS SOWING FIELD → REAPING IN HEAVEN

- False hopes: permanent rest
- **Gal 6:9** And **let us** not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.
- The look of a farmer → hard work; hope for harvest

3.1. WILLINGNESS TO WORK

- **Mt 21:28** "What do you think? A man had **two sons**. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.'...

3.2. CONCENTRATION AND PERSEVERANCE

- **Lk 9:62 - 10:1** "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the **kingdom of God**."

3.3. OPPORTUNITIES

- **1 Cor 15:58** Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in vain* in the Lord.
- **Mt 25:15** To one he gave five **talents**, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability...

4. TO REMEMBER

- The world is a dangerous place to be, full of enchantments.
- The Christian sees both the dangers *and* opportunities in the present world.
- The joyful hope is *always* placed in the things that are *outside* of this world.