

# The World, The Flesh, and The Devil

## Three Enemies of The Christian's Walk

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### I. Introduction

- A. The World, The Flesh and The Devil represent three battlefronts faced by the believer in his daily walk.
- B. Failure to recognize any of these realms of opposition leads to stumbling, lack of growth, discouragement, and, ultimately, loss of eternal rewards for the believer.
- C. Awareness of these realms of opposition and continual utilization of the provision God has made for facing the conflict leads to victory in the believer's life.

### II. Definitions

#### A. The World

- 1. Three Hebrew words and three Greek words are often translated "world", but our study will focus on the New Testament usage of **κόσμος**.
- 2. The Greek word **κόσμος** can mean (1) an orderly arrangement, (2) the sum total of everything here and now, (3) humanity in general, (4) the system of human existence, (5) a realm or (6) the planet earth.
- 3. Our study will focus on Satan's **κόσμος** system which functions independently of God and stands in opposition to Him.

#### B. The Flesh

- 1. Two Hebrew words and one Greek word are translated "flesh", but our study will focus on the New Testament usage of **σάρξ**.
- 2. The Greek word **σάρξ** can mean (1) the material that covers the bones of an animal or human being, (2) the physical body, (3) a living being with flesh, (4) earthly descent, or (5) normal earthly way.
- 3. Our study will focus on the physical body wherein resides the transmitted sin nature.

### C. The Devil

1. There are many names for the unholy archangel – Satan, Lucifer, Son of the Morning, Serpent, Dragon, Baal-zebub, Beelzebul, Devil, etc.
2. Our study will focus on the person of The Devil regardless of the name employed, although the two most common words used in the New Testament are **διάβολος** (devil) and **Σατανᾶς** (Satan).

## III. Development

### A. The World

1. Blinding Darkness (John 1:4-9; 3:19; 8:12; 12:35, 36, 46; 2 Cor 4:4-6; Eph 6:12; 1 John 2:8-11)
2. Counterfeit Wisdom (Isa 44:25; 1 Cor 1:18-27; 2:4-6; 3:19, 20; James 3:15-17; 1 John 4:1-6)
3. Opposed to God (John 8:19; 15:18,21; 16:3; 17:25; James 4:4; 1 John 2:16)
4. Defiling Filth (James 1:27; 2 Pet 1:4; 2:20)
5. Foreign Territory (John 17:14-16; 2 Cor 5:20; Phil 3:20)

### B. The Flesh

1. Abode of Sin Nature and its Lusts (Rom 7:5, 18, 25; Eph 2:3; 1 Pet 2:11)
2. Opposed to the Spirit (Rom 8:3-8; Gal 5:17)
3. A Source of Temptation (James 1:14)

### C. The Devil

1. Veils the Gospel (Luke 8:12; 2 Cor 4:3,4)
2. Tempter (Luke 4:1-13; 1 Cor 7:5)
3. Source of Human Viewpoint (Matthew 16:23; John 13:2; Acts 5:3)
4. Desires to Harm the Righteous (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-6; Luke 22:31; Acts 10:38; 1 Cor 5:5; 1 Pet 5:8; 1 Tim 1:20; 3:7; 2 Tim 2:26; Rev 2:10)
5. The Great Deceiver (John 8:44; Rev 12:9; 20:10)
6. Crafty Schemer (2 Cor 2:11; 11:3, 14; Eph 6:11)
7. Active Opportunist (Eph 4:27; 2 Thess 2:9)
8. Obstructor (1 Thess 2:18)

## IV. Conclusion

- A. We must recognize the opposition we face as believers in the world.

B. We must also recognize that the victory has already been achieved by our Savior and that we are empowered to succeed in battle.

1. This world is reserved for destruction (1 Cor 7:31; 2 Pet 3:7, 10; 1 John 2:17; Rev 21:1)
2. The passions of the flesh have been crucified (Rom 6:6; Gal 2:20; 5:24)
3. We are freed from sin and no longer must live for our lusts (Rom 6:12-22; 8:2; 13:14; Eph 4:24; Gal 5:16; 1 Pet 1:14; 4:1, 2)
4. We have weapons against the fallen angelic forces (2 Cor 6:7; 10:3, 4; Rom 13:12; Eph 6:10-17)