

THE WORLD

1. God made the world

Day 1

Colossians 1:16

For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth (Acts 17:24).

The word “world” most of the times is used in a negative context. Imagine after creating everything, God saw that it was good. Think about the colors, shapes, kinds... of animals, birds, fruits, vegetables, flowers... Isn't that beautiful?

Application

Take time to praise God for the beautiful creation. Tell God what you admire in certain animals, birds, fruits, vegetables, flowers....

2. God so loved the world

Day 2

John 3:16-18

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

God loves the world. He doesn't want the beautiful world to be corrupted. He doesn't want to condemn the world. He wanted to save the world.

Time and again He sent His word through many to save the world. Even then the world grew in corruption. God sent his only Son to save the world. That much He loves the world.

Application

Thank God for His love. Tell God the difference that you experienced by His love through Jesus.

John 8:12-13

12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

13 The Pharisees challenged him, "Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid."

Jesus was comparing Himself to the rising sun (the sun was then appearing, v2). To the Jews, the sun was the symbol of Jehovah God (Psalm 84:11).

Jesus is the light of the world, like the sun for our galaxy. The sun is the center and source of life. If we follow the sun, we will never walk in darkness.

Do you think the testimony of Jesus is valid? What are your thoughts on Jesus being the light of the world?

Application

Think about the day you accepted Jesus as Lord and how it has brought you from darkness to light. Pray through it.

John 3:19-21

19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.

21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

What do people love – light or darkness? Darkness

Why? Their deeds are evil.

Who hates light? Everyone who does evil.

Why will people not come into the light? For fear that their deeds will be exposed.

Who will come into the light? Whoever lives by the truth.

Application

What do we love today - light or darkness? Why? Have a conversation with God.

5. The world did not recognize Jesus

Day 5

John 1:9-11

9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

What does that mean when we read, “the world did not recognize him”?

How do you feel when someone didn’t recognize you?

How can one say that they recognize Jesus?

Application

How do you want to recognize Jesus? Talk to Jesus.

6. This will be preached in the whole world

Day 6

Matthew 24:12-14

12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,

13 but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Why will the love of most grow cold? In our life, which is increasing, wickedness or godliness?

Do we have a decision to stand firm till our death? If we don’t decide, there is a high chance of not standing firm.

How do you think the gospel will be preached in the whole world?

Application

How do you want to share the gospel? Make plans.

Matthew 25:34-36

34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,

36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

What was prepared during the creation of the world?

Who was it prepared for?

What goes on in your mind when you think about the word 'inheritance'?

Application

Do something based on v35-36.

Luke 12:29-31

29 And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it.

30 For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them.

31 But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

One assurance we can get from this passage is our Father knows what we need, and He has been providing and will provide in the future.

If the pagan world runs after all such things, what should we run after?

If we are not to set our hearts on what we will eat or drink, what should we set our hearts on?

Application

What do you mean by seeking his kingdom? Do something with regards to that.

Matthew 18:6-7

6 "If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

7 Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come!

What comes to your mind about things that cause people to stumble? Can we stop it? Bible says such things must come.

What do we need to be careful about? We should not be the ones bringing such things to the world and especially to the family of believers.

Application

List things around you that cause people to stumble and pray for God to touch them.

Matthew 16:26-27

26 What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

27 For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

What do you think about these two phrases 'gain the whole world' and 'forfeit their soul'?

How do you think people give something in exchange for their soul?

When will God reward each person according to what they have done?

Application

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. (2 Corinthians 13:5)

John 6:33,51

33 For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

The manna was a mysterious thing to the Jews. Jesus was a mystery to those who saw Him. The manna came at night from heaven, and Jesus came to this earth when sinners were in moral and spiritual darkness.

The manna was given to a rebellious people; it was the gracious gift of God. All they had to do was stoop and pick it up. If they failed to pick it up, they walked on it.

The Lord is not far from any sinner. All the sinner has to do is humble himself and take the gift (bread) that God offers.

Application

How much do you like this bread that gives life to the world? Will God say that you like Him?

John 18:36

Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

By “of this world” we are to understand that the nature and origin of His kingdom are not of this world, not that His kingdom will not extend in this world.

The kingdom of Jesus originates in heaven. The kingdom of Jesus has peace for its foundation; otherwise, His servants would fight.

The heavenly kingdom, exemplified by Jesus and the cross, is based on love, sacrifice, humility, and righteousness and is to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Gentiles foolishness.

Application

What do you mean by seek first His kingdom and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33)?

13. God will judge the world

Day 13

Acts 17:30-31

30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.

31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.

For centuries, God was patient with man's sin and ignorance. This does not mean that men were not, but only that God held back divine wrath. In due time, God sent a Savior, and now He commands all men to repent of their foolish ways. And He will return to judge the world.

There were three different responses to the message.

1. Some laughed and mocked and did not take Paul's message seriously.
2. Others were interested but wanted to hear more.
3. A small group accepted what Paul preached, believed in Jesus Christ, and were saved.

Application

That goes on our mind when we think about this statement, "God will judge the world."

14. You are chosen out of the world

Day 14

John 15:18,19

18 If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.

19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

When we trusted Christ, we moved into a new spiritual position: we are now "in Christ" and "out of the world." To be sure, we are in the world physically but not of the world spiritually.

Now that we are “partakers of the heavenly calling” (Heb. 3:1), we are no longer interested in the treasures or pleasures of sin in this world. This does not mean that we are isolated from reality or insulated from the world’s needs, so “heavenly minded that we are no earthly good.” Rather, it means that we look at the things of earth from heaven’s point of view.

Application

Does the world love you or hate you? Why?

15. Hate your life in this world

Day 15

John 12:24-25

24 Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

25 Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Jesus used the image of a seed to illustrate the great spiritual truth that there can be no glory without suffering, no fruitful life without death and no victory without surrender. Of itself, a seed is weak and useless, but when it is planted, it “dies” and becomes fruitful.

There is both beauty and bounty when a seed “dies” and fulfills its purpose. If a seed could talk, it would no doubt complain about being put into the cold, dark earth. But the only way it can achieve its goal is by being planted.

Application

What goes on in our minds when we think about hating life in this world?

16. Do not conform to the pattern of this world

Day 16

Romans 12:1-2

1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

How can we offer our bodies as a living sacrifice? Does it have to do with not conforming to the patterns of this world?

Think about these two words, conform and transform. Which direction are we going in when it comes to our personal lives, conforming or transforming? How about our ministry? What about our church?

Application

When is the last time our mind got renewed? What transformed us at that time?

17. Do not love the world

Day 17

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them.

16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.

17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

Worldliness not only affects your response to the love of God; it also affects your response to the will of God.

When you put these two factors together, you have a practical definition of worldliness: anything in a Christian's life that causes him to lose his enjoyment of the Father's love or his desire to do the Father's will is worldly and must be avoided.

Responding to the Father's love (your personal devotional life) and doing the Father's will (your daily conduct)—these are two tests of worldliness.

Application

How much of Father's love do we enjoy today, and what stops us from doing the will of God?

18. Keep yourself from being polluted by the world

Day 18

James 1:26-27

26 Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.

27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Real religion is not shown by hearing the word, but by doing it. Our walk with God is useless if it does not translate into the way we live and the way we treat others.

A real walk with God shows itself in simple, practical ways. It helps the needy and keeps itself unstained by the world's corruption.

Application

Take time to help and encourage needy ones.

19. Friendship with the world means enmity against God

Day 19

James 4:4-6

4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

5 Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us?

6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."

Friendship with the world is compared to adultery. The believer is "married to Christ" (Rom. 7:4) and ought to be faithful to Him. The Jewish Christians who read this letter would understand this picture of "spiritual adultery" because the prophets Ezekiel, Jeremiah, and Hosea used it when rebuking Judah for her sins. By adopting the sinful ways of the other nations, and by worshipping their gods, the nation of Judah committed adultery against her God.

The world is the enemy of God, and whoever wills to be a friend of the world cannot be the friend of God. Neither can he be if he lives for the flesh.

Application

Are we friend of God? What can we do more to become a better friend of God?

2 Peter 1:3-4

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

Do we like corruption? Do we want to escape corruption? What causes corruption?

What can help us to escape corruption? What has God given us to have a godly life?

Application

What are some evil desires we struggle with today? List a few promises of God that can help us with those desires.

1 John 5:3-5

3 In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,

4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

One of the tests of maturing love is our personal attitude toward the Bible, because in the Bible we find God's will for our lives revealed. An unsaved man considers the Bible an impossible book, mainly because he does not understand its spiritual message.

An immature Christian considers the demands of the Bible to be burdensome. He is somewhat like a little child who is learning to obey and who asks, "Why do I have to do that?" or "Wouldn't it be better to do this?" But a Christian who experiences God's perfecting love finds himself enjoying the Word of God and truly loving it.

Application

What are some commands in the Bible people consider burdensome? What do you mean by “overcome the world”?

22. The whole world is under the control of evil one

Day 22

1 John 5:18-20

18 We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them.

19 We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

20 We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

Then how does a believer keep from sinning? Jesus Christ keeps the believer so that the enemy cannot get his hands on him. “He [Christ] who was born of God keeps him [the believer], and the evil one does not touch him.”

To begin with, Satan cannot touch any believer without God’s permission. Whenever Satan attacks us, we can be sure that God gave him permission. And if God gave him permission, He will also give us power to overcome, because God will never permit us to be tested above our strength.

Application

Pray for your known people who are under the control of the evil one, and make some efforts to show God to them.

23. The spirit of the antichrist is already in the world

Day 23

1 John 4:1-3

1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,

3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

Christians who are well acquainted with the Scriptures discern those who set forth doctrines according to the apostles and those who contradict them.

The false teachers speak of the world according to its maxims and tastes so as not to offend carnal men. The world approved them, they made rapid progress, and they had many followers such as themselves; the world will love its own, and its own will love it.

Application

What are some false teachings going around you? How can you refute it with scriptures?

24. Elemental spiritual forces of this world

Day 24

Colossians 2:8,20

8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

20 Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules:

How is it possible for false teachers to capture people? The answer is simple: these “captives” are ignorant of the truths of the Word of God. They become fascinated by the philosophy and empty delusion of the false teachers.

What is more important, man-made traditions or God-given doctrines of the Scriptures? What is dominant in our fellowship? Will a newcomer to our fellowship see the Spirit of God moving the church or the elemental spiritual forces or human traditions moving the church?

Application

What are some elemental spiritual forces of this world that contradict the word of God?

25. Do not wage war as the world does

Day 25

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.

4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Many believers today do not realize that the church is involved in warfare, and those who do understand the seriousness of the Christian battle do not always know how to fight the battle. They try to use human methods to defeat demonic forces, and these methods are doomed to fail.

Do we involve ourselves in demolishing arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God?

Application

What are some thoughts that make us struggle to make it obedient to Christ?

26. Do not follow the ways of this world

Day 26

Ephesians 2:1-3

1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

The unbeliever is not sick; he is dead! He does not need resuscitation; he needs resurrection. All lost sinners are dead, and the only difference between one sinner and another is the state of decay.

One corpse cannot be more dead than another! This means that our world is one vast graveyard, filled with people who are dead while they live. We were one among them but got resurrected.

Application

Do people see us as resurrected for Christ? What difference do we need to make in us for people to see us as resurrected?

Ephesians 6:10-12

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

The important point is that our battle is not against human beings. It is against spiritual powers. We are wasting our time fighting people when we ought to be fighting the devil who seeks to control people and make them oppose the work of God.

Since we are fighting against enemies in the spirit world, we need special equipment both for offense and defense. God has provided the “whole armor” for us, and we dare not omit any part. Satan looks for that unguarded area.

Application

Read Ephesians 13-18 and see if any unguarded area in our spiritual journey.

1 Peter 5:8-10

8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

We are never alone in our spiritual warfare. Our brothers and sisters in Jesus have fought, and are fighting, the same battles. As the serpent, Satan deceives, and as the lion, Satan devours.

Satan is a dangerous enemy. He is a serpent who can bite us when we least expect it. He has great power and intelligence, and a host of demons who assist him in his attacks against God's people.

We need to be alert, and of sober mind, resist him standing firm in the faith.

Application

Remember the days when Satan tried to devour you and praise God for the deliverance.

29. Gospel is bearing fruit throughout the whole world

Day 29

Colossians 1:6

In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God’s grace.

Two words in the Christian vocabulary are often confused: grace and mercy. God in His grace gives me what I do not deserve. Yet God in His mercy does not give me what I do deserve.

Grace is God’s favor shown to undeserving sinners. The reason the gospel is good news is because of grace: God is willing and able to save all who will trust Jesus Christ.

This gospel is bearing fruit throughout the whole world.

Application

Think about all the times the gospel bearing fruit in your life and thank God remembering them.

30. You are the light of the world

Day 30

Matthew 5:14-16

14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Light of the world means that we are not only light-receivers, but also light-givers. We must have a greater concern than only ourselves, and we cannot live only to ourselves; we must have someone to shine to, and do so lovingly.

The purpose of light is to illuminate and expose what is there. Therefore light must be exposed before it is of any use – if it is hidden under a basket, it is no longer useful.

Application

Knowing many glorify God in heaven seeing our good deeds, how much we need to work on doing good deeds? What are some good deeds you are doing/can do to others? Your labor in the Lord is not in vain.