

First Baptist Church, Plymouth NC.
Wednesday Night Bible Study
October 6, 2021

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. Romans 12:1-4

We have been studying the importance of transforming our minds in order to know His will. The contrast is big- we are not to conform to the pattern of this world. (the manner of living of the world system)

“World is better translated “age” which refers to the system of beliefs values- or the spirit of the age – at any time current in the world. This sum of contemporary thinking and values forms the moral atmosphere of our world and is always dominated by Satan.”- The MacArthur Study Bible

“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” 2 Cor. 4:4

The god of this age- Satan has blinded the minds of unbelievers.

Isaiah 14:12-15 (A taunt against the king of Babylon)- Babylon was a city in Modern Day Iraq. Originally where the tower of Babel was located- it no longer exists but serves as a symbol of the world system set against the will of God led by our ancient foe- Satan. It will one day be defeated forever and its leader Satan cast in a lake of fire.

“The King of Babylon here like Babylon itself in chapter 13 is a representative figure, the embodiment of the worldly arrogance that defies God and tramples on others in its lust for power. It is this which lies at the heart of every evil for which particular nations will be indicted in the following chapters. It also lies at the heart of all the horrendous acts of inhumanity which human beings and nations still commit against one another today...This is no cheap gloating over the downfall of an enemy, but the satisfaction and delight which God's people rightly feel at his final victory over evil.” (See Revelation 18)
- The Message of Isaiah, The Bible Speaks today Series, J.A. MOTYER, Editor, Barry G. Webb, Author. IVP1996.

Satan himself is blinded- blinded by his pride. It was pride that caused him to disobey His creator- and desire to be like the creator.

Ezekiel 27,28 – The Lament of Tyre. A Real city with a king who claimed to be God- Very powerful and wealthy city in Phoenicia. Prideful and Arrogant. Eventually fell into poverty under the pressure of continual Babylonian world domination. Behind the evil nations- Satan is always influencing.

Arrogant pride is at the heart of rebellion against God- it's at the heart of fallen humanity?. It is the most subtle of sins- which leads to a host of other sins. It is a sin that spans all of human history and before. Today human pride is epidemic. Humility despised, arrogant pride in self, the group one belongs to. Arrogant pride in our technology and advancement- and the worship of such.

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Read Psalm 10:1-4. What are the markers of the wicked in this passage of Scripture?

Pride (negative connotation) -A feeling of deep pleasure or satisfaction derived from one's own achievements, the achievements of those with whom one is closely associated, or from qualities or possessions that are widely admired...The quality of having an excessively high opinion of oneself or one's importance. (Oxford)

What are some signs that a Christian while saying they are humble are actually full of pride?

Romans 12 After instructing us to not conform to the pattern of the world, Paul addresses pride!

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. Romans 12:4

Let us note the goodness of God- He is a wonderful giver of grace (unmerited favor) and a distributor of faith! It is all about him.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

What do these verses have to do with the issue of pride we have been talking about?

In Romans 12 :4 We read that we are not to think of ourselves more highly that we ought but with sober judgment.

What do you think this means?

Pride has blinded many a Christian. It is the great sin of the Laodicean Church. Their lukewarmness spiritually was the result of their arrogant belief that they were self-sufficient. They were know for their banking system, their textiles and their pharmaceuticals.

God is our source of all things- from the beating heart in our chest to the food on our table, to the relationships we enjoy, to this church. We are nothing apart from him. We owe him all praise and glory! We also must live humbly before him.

James 4:4-10 Let us all tear down any pride and arrogance. Let us see ourselves as God sees us. Yes, beloved of Him- but also nothing without him. Walking humbly before God leads too blessing from God!