The Present Condition of Man

The Word of God says that through disobedience man lost his likeness to God and became separated from God, which is to say he died. ("Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned…" Romans 5:12)

So mankind (the world) is marked by the presence of sin in every person's life and by selfishness, the love of self. Whether we like it or not, the Word of God shows us that the ruler of this world is the devil, and that by their natural birth all people come under his rule. We find this in the Word of God, the Bible: "[You] who were dead in trespasses and sins; wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." (Ephesians 2:1); "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning." (1 John 3:8)

Perhaps you will say that you don't sin. But God says that we all sin and are under the power of sin. The Bible shows us this in Romans 3:23: "As by one man sin entered into the world, and death (separation from God) by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned…" The Bible also tells us: "Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation," so that we are separated from God. (Romans 5:12)

These passages of the Bible show us very clearly that there is a "course of this world", a kingdom of the world ruled by Satan, which stands in plain contrast to the Kingdom of God.

God is holy, and His Kingdom is marked by holiness. "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." (Romans 14:17)

Each one of us has to ask the question: How are we living? According to the course of this world? Let us find out which citizenship we hold. If you are a citizen of the kingdom of the world, which is marked by selfishness, malice, lies and anger, know that the Bible tells you that you will not enter the Kingdom of God. ("Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." 1 Corinthians 6:9-10)

The Kingdom of God is the opposite of the kingdom of the world. It is a Kingdom marked by righteousness, peace and joy. A holy life and peace are the standard of this Kingdom. That is why we are told: "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." (Hebrews 12:14)

God states plainly that the unrighteous must change the way they live, or else they will have no part in God's Paradise. ("Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?

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So I ask you: won't you ask to become a citizen of the Kingdom of God, so that you may rejoice for all eternity with those who live a pure life? ("Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." 2 Peter 3:13)

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