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CITIZENS OF HEAVEN

Regenerated believers are not of this world, they are chosen out of the world (John 15:19) and hated by the world. The Lord Jesus Christ redeemed them from the world and by His grace transferred them into His own kingdom, a kingdom not of this world. Believers are the royal citizens of the kingdom of God. Satan, the god (2 Corinthians 4:4) and the ruler of the cosmic system (John 14:30) "established" his own kingdom by coercion and force. His recruitment program is automatic at physical birth through genetic transfer of old sin nature.

The kingdom of the world (Matthew 4:8-9) is hostile to the kingdom of God. There is nothing in common between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of the world, but the exact opposite. The world glories in its physical, material, temporal and carnal wealth. The kingdom of God glories in Christ Jesus. God left the believers in the world (John 17:15) under severe hostility of the demonic forces, but protected from the evil one until the Second Coming of Christ. The believers are provided with complete logistical blessings vital for their existence and spiritual growth toward spiritual maturity. The Devil cannot just do anything against the believers without permission from God. Satan is not sovereign but just a subordinate.

The Lord Jesus Christ did not ask God the Father to take the believers out of this world but to provide them protection through the Word of God stored in the soul (epignosis) (John 17:15, 17). The best and the only perfect protection of believers against the world, the flesh and the devil is Bible doctrine calculated and resident in the souls. The citizens of the world are brainwashed with the wisdom of the world (1 Corinthians 1:20) from the time they came out of their mother's womb. They looked at the people of God with disdain and superiority. They regard the people of God as foolish and weak things of the world (1 Corinthians 1:27), they are the base things and despised of the world. The men of the world regarded the children of God as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things (1 Corinthians 4:13).

The citizens of heaven have received the Spirit who is from God, not the spirit of the world, which enable them to know and understand the Word of God. Believers have escaped the defilement of the world by the grace of God and will remain free through the knowledge of the Lord [Bible doctrines] (2 Peter 2:20).

The men of the world (Psalm 17:14) whose portion is in this life and whose glory is in this world, are concerned only with the things of the world but will never, in anyway be satisfied with the things of the world. There is nothing in the world or anything in the world that can satisfy the soul of men. The human soul have a vacuum, a hallow space that only God can fill. The feeling of emptiness will continue to linger in the soul in the midst of material, financial and sexual prosperity (Psalm 17:13-14).

THE WORRIES OF THE WORLD

Believers have died with Christ to the basic and elementary principles of the world, they are designed not to live for the world, they are capable to refuse and resist submission to humanistic viewpoint (Colossians 2:20-21). Christians are mandated not to establish friendship with the world because it is hostility toward God. Christians are also mandated to resist being captive to human philosophy and empty deception (Colossians 2:8).

The real battle zone in the life of every believer is in his soul. The world is not the spiritual battlefield; it is the head quarter of the demonic forces. Satan capitalizes on human freewill in creating miseries in the life of the individual itself. Humans are free to think according to the Word of God or according to worldly thinking. Only the children of God can think according to mind of Christ if their souls are stored with Bible doctrines. Believers without Bible doctrines resident in their souls can only think human viewpoint, that is, the thinking pattern of the world based on satanic principles and policies.

Immature and carnal believers are easily infected with the worry of the world (Matthew 13:22). The “worry of the world” is a mental attitude that gives priority to the things of the world. It is concerned with the details of life, its passion and lusts. The worry of the world prevents the believer from experiencing the full capacity of the spiritual life he received from God. The world with its lusts confined him to limited spiritual functionality, if not total stagnation of the soul.

Believers must be free from the concern of the world, foremost of which is the concern for money. It advocates the viewpoint that money is the answer to everything in this world (Ecclesiastes 10:19). Money becomes its final objective in life, but an objective without an end. The objective is to satisfy his soul with something that cannot quench the spiritual emptiness of his soul.

The anxious mind that seeks solutions from human viewpoint will only manufacture more problems, because such solutions are not only ineffective but also useless. The solution for problems brought by poverty are not money, because financial prosperity will bring more problems rather than solve the previous problems (Ecclesiastes 5:10-15). The world’s solution will create more problems, rather than solve the previous problems. For the believer, worrying is

not only a mental sin but a destructive behavior. It operates outside the sphere of God and it takes the believer out of reality.

God included in the logistical grace provision for the believers, (regardless of spiritual standing before God), all the provisions for spiritual growth, all the provision necessary for existence in the world, all the protection necessary for survival in the world. The life of every believer is safe and secure in the hands of God. No individual will leave this world ahead or behind the schedule set by the sovereignty of God. No bullet can kill the believer without divine permission. Medical doctors cannot prolong the lives of their patients, and nobody can put an end to biological life of a person, apart from the schedule set by God. Worrying is not for believers because there are no logical reasons to worry about. God is in controlled of everything in this universe and beyond. God is responsible for every needs of the believer. He provides the needs of the unbeliever even without asking. In reality, God saved us while we were not even aware of our spiritual status; He provided salvation when we do not know what salvation is all about. He has forgiven the sin of the entire human race, even when nobody asked for forgiveness.

It is more difficult for God to provide our salvation because the Lord Jesus Christ has to become true humanity and take the place of the sinful men. It is very easy for God to provide the things we worry much about. The Word of God has the perfect solutions for our anxieties.

THE BELIEVERS IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD

The world is not the home of the genuine saints ordained by God, (not by men) born into the Family of God by the Spirit of God, (not by flesh, blood or will of men) [John 1:11-13]. The believers are chosen out of the world (John 15:19) and hate by the world because of Christ and regarded as nothing more than garbage (1 Corinthians 1:27-29, 1 Corinthians 2:12, 1 Corinthians 4:13). The Church Age believers are regarded by the world as:

- The foolish things of the world
- The weak things of the world
- The base things of the world
- The despised things of the world
- The scum of the world
- The dregs of all things

The Church Age believers are the “number one” enemy of the world as clarified by the Lord Jesus Himself: *"The world cannot hate you; but it hates Me because I testify of it, that its deeds are evil (John 7:7). "He who loves his life loses it; and he who hates his life in this world shall keep it to life eternal. "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall My servant also be. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him (John 12:25-26).*

"If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you." If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you (John 15:18-19). "He who hates Me hates My Father also (John 15:23).

"But they have done this in order that the word may be fulfilled that is written in their Law, `They hated Me without a cause (John 15:25). "I have given them (believers) Thy word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world (John 17:14).

The world hates the believers because they are no longer of the world. Every human being is born in the world and of the world (with the exception of the perfect humanity of Christ). Every person born in this planet is contaminated with old sin nature and falls under the category of sinners (Romans 3:23). All men are sinners, but at the point of salvation, by the grace of God, believers are declared justified and righteous through the merits of Jesus Christ. Believers are now forgiven sinners.

Every believer have received not less than 40 spiritual blessings at the moment of they accepted the gift of salvation, including the full resources needed to advance and reach spiritual maturity. The Church Age believers are the most gifted people of the world, they received eternal blessings that the world cannot give. The world is not only jealous but angrily jealous. The scum and the despised of the world have received the magnificent blessings of heaven.

The majority of believers came from humble walk of life; they were ordinary people of the world before salvation. After salvation, they became extra-ordinary because of the extra-ordinary blessings they received. The world called them (believers) foolish but God is using them to shame the "wise" of the world. They are weak in the eyes of the world but God is using them to shame the "strong" and great men of the world.

The eternal life we received from God is not designed for this world; it is not compatible for the cosmic system. The Holy Spirit we received cannot operate under the imperfect and corrupted cosmic system. Our adoption as people and children of God is permanent (John 1:11-12). Therefore, the world cannot accept and be at peace with the children of God. Any effort to gain the friendship of the world on the part of the believer is hostility toward God (James 4:4). A reversionist is a believer whose priority is in the world, who loves the things of the world, who adores the world and indulges his soul in the lusts of the flesh, lust of the eyes and boastful pride of life.

THE HARASSMENT OF THE WORLD

As the Rapture is drawing near, the anger of the world against the believers will intensify and reach its climax during the Tribulation of the Jews. The subtle antagonism of the world against believers is unnoticeable to many. Some believers even think that there is nothing wrong with world system and it is a good environment for everyone.

The world is an unfriendly environment for all Christian of all generations, since it is the territory of the devil – the god of this age. Any one who rejects and resists the “elementary principles of the world” (Colossians 2:8, 20-21) will definitely receive its pierce fury. The invitation of the world for the believers is “If you cannot fight us, join us”. Many are fearfully turning back to the world, but with out leaving their local churches. These are Christian who bears the name of Christ in vain. They fear men more than God.

“For if after they have escaped the defilement’s of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment delivered to them. It has happened to them according to the true proverb, "A dog returns to its own vomit," and, "A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire" (2 Peter 2:20-22).

The glory of the world falls into three major categories:

- The lusts of the flesh
- The lusts of the eyes
- The boastful pride of life

Such glory therefore is carnal, temporal, and evil. Loving the treasures of the world satisfies the threefold category of lusts. Satan is supporting the materialistic saints because the passion for the things of the world is the shortcut to spiritual failure. Satan has many tools of harassment against the believers, such as money. Both the lack and abundance of money can serve the purpose of the cosmic system. If the believer obeys the mandate not to lay up treasures upon earth [meaning not to set his soul on the treasures of the world but on God] (Matthew 6:19-21), then, he will reach spiritual maturity through financial difficulty. He will receives the tremendous blessings of time and eternity but Satan will see to it that he will suffer in poverty because of his spiritual victory (Philippians 4:12-13).

On the other hand, if the believer give in to the enticement of the world to seek first the wealth and glory of the world, then, his soul will languish in self-made miseries brought about by his wealth (Ecclesiastes 5:11-15). His money will produce more troubles than blessings, more pains than pleasure. The devil can use anything as an instrument for harassing the believer. For example, the unbelieving lover of the believer can “look like an angel before marriage” but behave like a fallen angel all throughout his marriage life.

A discerning believer will remain cautious and alert in everything he “picks up” from the world system because it could be a bomb nicely wrapped with cosmic persuasions. The devil and the cosmic system are thinking only of destruction and calamity of God’s children. Everything in the world is specially designed for that purpose. Every system the devil layout is deviously crafted to deceive and destroy both the believers and unbelievers. Satan is never concern for the welfare of his advocates and followers. He is just using them against God.

Satan’s anger against God is concentrated on the believers, the heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, and this will continue until the time he is permanently lock in the Lake of Fire. In this world, believers will continue to experience different types of tribulation in every aspects of their lives (John 16:33). Nevertheless, the peace of God dominates the sufferings because Christ has overcome the world. The world is defeated by the Lord Jesus Christ and therefore, never allows it to win at any chance in your soul.