

Strengthening Faith, Sermon Series on Revelation continues 1/28/24 "Come Out," Rev. 18 MEV

INTRODUCTION: Philosophy expressed in Star Trek: Humanity is improving. Do you think humanity is truly improving?

Review: Babylon represents world system under devil's rule; 18 focuses on Babylon's commercial & political aspects

MAIN IDEA: Separate from the world system. How? I can't hide in my residence. But I can do these two things.

I. First, recognize the world system

A. by its character (2-3)...sinful (5)

1. demonic (demons, unclean spirits, hateful birds)...lies, steals, kills, destroys... marriage, families, humility, depression, suicide

WHO... suicide every 40 seconds

2. angry rebelliousness (3, wine of wrath of sexual immorality)

Rev. 18:3, Remedy: for she intoxicates the world with her pagan views of God, maddening them with her adulterous idea that God coerces and must inflict punishment if not properly appeased.

3. pride (7)

4. lust for luxury & stuff (7, 12-14)

5. aggressiveness against God & His people (20, 24)

6. devaluing of human life...selling of slaves & souls of people (13)

7. use of sorcery (drugs 23)... opens door to demonic influence

8. presumptuousness (7, Prov. 19:13)... I will see no sorrow

B. by its influence...spreading its character (3, 9, 11-13, 19)

1. among world leaders (kings of the earth)

2. among merchants (32, 11, 15, people who buy and sell "stuff" for profit... Wall Street, Stock Market, traders, storekeepers, retailers, local merchants who own store on Main Street)

3. among people who love it because it is appealing (9, 11, 18-19)

EX: Among world leaders (3, 9), merchants (11), people who provide transportation for the goods (sailors, 17)

ILLUSTRATION:

II. Second, fix my desires on Jesus

A. by rejecting my love for the world

1. I can love the people as God does (John 3:16)

2. but not what the world keeps pushing (*see part I*)

1John 2:15-16, MEV: ¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

Transition: Difficult to reject without having something we love and desire more.

B. by focusing on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2)... His forgiveness, causes us to love Him, be thankful, desire to please Him

1. follow Him (Matthew 16:24)

2. obey Him (John 14:23)

3. love His people (John 13:34)

4. tithe (where your treasure is, Matt 6:21)

These are all forms of worship

1Thess. 5:16-18, MEV: 16 Rejoice always. 17 Pray without ceasing. 18 In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

ILLUSTRATION: never been interested in \$ but had to lay down desire for success in writing because pursuing that meant always seeking applause from people

CONCLUSION:

ALTAR: Struggle with loving the world? Unsure of how to fix desires on Jesus? Think that PSam is overstating the wickedness of the world around us?
