

# The Course Of This World #1

**Introduction.** Ephesians 2 is a grand chapter extolling the virtues of God's grace in light of man's wickedness. In the "course of this world" (v. 2) the term "world" is used in four senses in the New Testament: (1) It is used in the sense of the universe or all of creation (John 21:25; Acts 17:24; Philippians 2:15); (2) it is used in the sense of the earth as a place of habitation (Matthew 4:8; Luke 12:30; Romans 1:8; 4:13); (3) it is used in the sense of humanity in general (Romans 3:6, 19); and, (4) it is used in the sense of humanity that is hostile to God (John 1:29; 3:16; 8:12, 23; 12:31) — this is the sense in which "world" is used in Ephesians 2:2.

How does the Bible describe the way that is hostile to God? In this lesson and the next, we will investigate eight different descriptions of this sinful world in which we live, so that we can diligently stand against it.

## ***I. A Course Of Darkness***

- A. Ephesians 4:18.
- B. Ecclesiastes 2:13.
- C. Psalm 119:105, 130.
- D. 1 John 1:6-7.

## ***II. A Course Of Human Wisdom***

- A. Judges 17:6.
- B. Proverbs 14:12.
- C. 1 Corinthians 3:19.
- D. James 3:14-18.

## ***III. A Course Of Disobedience***

- A. Daniel 9:10, 14.
- B. John 7:19.
- C. Hebrews 5:8-9.
- D. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8.

## ***IV. A Course Of Conformity***

- A. 2 Kings 17:15.
- B. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4.
- C. Colossians 3:1-3.
- D. Titus 2:11-14.

**Conclusion.** Don't run the course of this world in darkness, human wisdom, disobedience, and conformity. You're better than that. You're a child of God, a child of the King. Leave the "course of this world" for the joys of eternal life.