

Trapped By The Seen World

Don't let your human viewpoint weaken your heavenly vantage point.

Points to Ponder:

1. An understanding of the unseen world is necessary to be a successful Christian in the seen world.
2. When you only view life from a framework of human thinking you will be trapped into a weak and anemic faith.
3. The unseen world is just as real as the seen world.
4. Often, what is experienced in the seen world is a result of what's going on in the unseen world.
5. Much of the New Testament introduces us to this conflict of the seen world with the unseen world.

Important Scripture: *While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*
2 Corinthians 4:18

Read the following passage: Matthew 16:13-23

1. There are some things you will never learn just from a human perspective. There are things in the unseen and unknown realm that have to be revealed to you by the heavenly Father. *vs. 17.*
 - This shows us that the heavenly Father desires to reveal to us things that may presently be unknown to us.

Do you believe the unseen world influences your seen world? Explain.

2. Jesus builds His church on a revelation that is apart from human thinking alone. *vs. 18.*
 - The modern church must be built on something other than just good human ideas. Good human ideas are no match for the powers of hell.

Why do you think so many Christians are content to just believe human ideas are sufficient for a successful Christian life?

How much of modern church (*our services and practices*) is influenced by human thinking rather than Holy Spirit revelation?

3. The powers of Hell are no match for the power that a believing Christian has. *vs. 18.*
 - Hell does have power. There are powers from a world that is opposite of God's will. Hell was the place of the nether world, the dead, the receptacle place of disembodied spirits.
 - However, these powers could not conquer the church, nor overcome the believers.

What can be done as a believer that would be a threat to the unseen realm of evil?

4. Jesus gives you power on this earth. You have power as a believer to *forbid* or *permit* what takes place on this earth. vs 19.

- This concept is not known by many believers nor is it practiced by them. Often time, believers just live with a mentality of *fate*, not realizing that what transpires in their life is a direct reflection of what is being permitted or forbidden.

Are there things you are permitting in your life that should be forbidden - in your home, marriage, or thought life?

5. Jesus stated that Satan could be a dangerous trap. This dangerous trap was directly connected to seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's. vs. 23

- Satan can trap a believer by simply getting them focused on what is only seen. They become ignorant of the unseen world and assume everything is simply the result of human influence.

How can the human point of view be considered Satan's trap?

TWO MINDSETS THAT NEED TO SHIFT FROM A HUMAN POINT OF VIEW

1. Your PURPOSE.

- You have a purpose that is not only human. You have a spiritual purpose as well.
- Read Genesis 2:18-25
- Adam's rib had both a natural purpose (*protect his own organs*) and it had a spiritual purpose (*being made into a woman*). Without God's help and wisdom, Adam would have never known that his rib had any other purpose. Today, many don't understand this fact: As a Christian believer you have both a natural and spiritual purpose. Everything connected to you has both a natural and spiritual purpose.
- Your mouth, it can be natural or spiritual - it can speak curses or blessings.
- Your money, it can be natural or spiritual - you can bless yourself or use it as a seed for others.
- Your prayers, they can be natural or spiritual - do you pray pity prayers or permitting prayers?

Do you view your life as having just as much spiritual purpose as natural purpose?

What needs to change for you to see your purpose as more spiritual?

As a natural human, you are subject to this earth and it's circumstances, and the unseen powers that will conquer you.

As a spiritual human, you are not subject to the earth and it's circumstances, or the unseen powers trying to conquer you.

2. Your POWER.

- Christ has defeated every power of the unseen world that is standing against you.
- Read Colossians 1:13-20 and 2:8-15
- You have been delivered from the powers of the evil unseen world.
- The cross of Jesus makes null and void everything the devil and evil spirits would have against you.
- You no longer have to live by fate or frustration. You've been given power to overcome.

Do you live pitiful or powerful?

Why is the cross of Jesus such a threat to the evil unseen world?

What needs to change in your life to live more purposeful and powerful?