



Seduction of the World

By Bryan Trotter on November 15, 2022

TODAY'S READING: Revelation 17

We still have remnants of Halloween around our house. There are a few fall decorations indoors, costumes in our boys' rooms, and lots of candy around, which will never be eaten entirely. I recall a recent conversation with my oldest while driving home from the store, where we saw many costumes, including the devil. Our conversation included discussing why we do not decorate with scary elements for Halloween and what the devil looked like. The image of the devil we are presented with today is a man with a red cape, horns, and a pitchfork that is more mischievous than malevolent.

As we examine scripture in the garden of Eden and Christ's temptation in the desert, the devil was not a monstrous, terrifying beast nor a horned man dressed in red with a lame goatee. The enemy was approachable and offered pleasing and desirable temptations to Adam/Eve and Jesus. The same is true for us; we are tempted by the things that are desirable to us.

John's vision in Revelation 17 describes the image of the harlot that is said to lead the kings, rulers, and common people into sexual immorality. The image is one of spiritual adultery and idolatry. The desire for power, materialism, and pleasure has enticed the world. We trade knowing and experiencing the life of Jesus Christ for lesser things. C.J. Mahaney once said, "Today, the greatest challenge facing American [Christians] is not persecution from the world, but seduction by the world."

Jesus is an example for believers of how to live, and the same applies to temptation. When tempted, Jesus responded with the Word of God. We are more prepared to overcome temptation when we study and meditate on the scriptures. Today is a good day for self-examination. Where have you been tempted? What has the world offered you that is enticing? Spend some time in prayer today to ask God to show the areas of your life where you are tempted and for strength to overcome these temptations.

TOMORROW'S READING: Revelation 18

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