

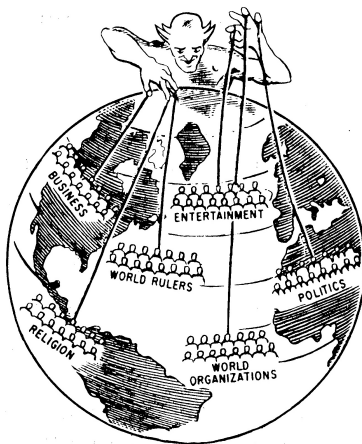
Dear Friend of [Abiding Above](#),

July 2011

We read in God's Holy Word that the ruler of this **world** is Satan.

**John 14:30** – Jesus said, “... *the ruler of this world is coming ...*”

**Revelation 12:9** – “... *that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world ...*”



When you turn on the nightly news, I'm sure like me, you are appalled at what you hear and see. Corruption is rampant in every area of our society. We hardly know who to vote for in the next election, as there seems to be no one who walks with God anymore. They are blinded by the things of this world and the god of this age. Satan is behind it all.

**2 Corinthians 4:3-4** – “... *to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded ...*”

“How can this be?” you might ask. How have we drifted so far? A little at a time. The same way a boat does if left untied to its dock.

Many years ago now, Ruth Graham, the wife of Billy Graham, had this to say, “*If God does not judge America He will have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah.*”

Reminding us of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, and the love Lot's wife had for that decadent society, Jesus said this in **Luke 17:32** – “*Remember Lot's wife.*” She was turned into a pillar of salt. Her heart was for that earthly city.

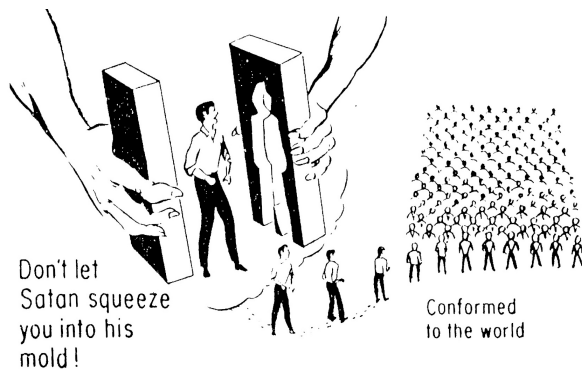
The Bible says in **1 John 2:15-17** – “*Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*”

**James 4:4** – “*Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*”

Robert H. Bork, a Supreme Court nominee, by President Ronald Reagan, wrote a book entitled “*Slouching Towards Gomorrah*”, which explains the **radical** ideas we see in society and our churches. He said, “It sprung from the counterculture of the 60s. They preached wanton drug use and ‘free love.’ This counterculture became *the* culture of the 1990s due to many of the boomer **radicals** becoming professors, politicians, media producers, and most importantly, parents. Now what was once thought to be inconceivable and morally wrong in previous eras is now seen as holy and unquestionable. That is what our culture has groomed us to believe.”

And now, we are in the year 2011. These ideas are thoroughly entrenched in our thinking. Many young pastors have this mindset and are not even aware of it. They have soaked in the music and media of this age that is controlled by Satan. And now, what used to frighten us we embrace, hoping to draw the world in to help in paying our expenses. This is sweeping our nation and is in every Christian denomination. Some, more so than others, though all of us have been “*infected*” by it.

**2 Corinthians 11:13-15** – “*For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.*”



My friend, let's you and I choose not to let Satan squeeze us into his mold. Let's choose not to be conformed to this world. Let's not look back with wanton and longing eyes at this world that is perishing.

**Romans 12:2** – “*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*”

My friend, recall these words from an old song, “*I'd rather have Jesus than men's applause; I'd rather be faithful to His dear cause; I'd rather have Jesus than worldwide fame; I'd rather be true to His holy name.*”

I love you. Let's be found faithful when He appears. Let's simply lead men, women, boys, and girls to Jesus Christ.

Abiding above,

Chris S. Hodges  
President  
Abiding Above Ministries  
Colossians 3:1-3