

IMPORTANT WORDS – PART 3 – WORLD

July 22, 2018

LAST WEEK – Biblical Uses of “World”

“World” is used of the whole human race:

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the **whole world** may be held accountable to God. (Rom 3:19)

“World” is used of the Universe as a whole:

The God who made **the world** and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, (Act 17:24)

“World” is used of the earth:

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart **out of this world** to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. (Joh 13:1)

“World” is used of the world-system:

Now is the judgment **of this world**; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. (Joh 12:31)

“World” is used of Gentiles in contrast from Jews:

Now if their trespass means riches **for the world**, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean! (Rom 11:12)

“World” is used to represent lots of people:

The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, **the world** has gone after him." (Joh 12:18-19)

Question: Were the Pharisees excluding themselves as residents of the world when they discussed this, or did they mean that all kinds of people were going after Jesus? Not every single person – just all kinds of people.

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in **all the world**. (Rom 1:8)

Question: What about the Chinese and Native Americans? At this point, not a single Chinese person or Native American had been witnessed to. Perhaps Paul means a portion of “all the world”.

For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be **heir of the world** did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. (Rom 4:13)

Question: If, according to Galatians 3:29, only those in Christ are Abraham's offspring, how is Abraham heir of the world if world means every single person?

"World" is used of humanity minus believers:

We know that we are from God, and the **whole world** lies in the power of the evil one. (1Jn 5:19)

Yet a little while and **the world** will see me no more, **but you will see me**. Because I live, you also will live. (Joh 14:19)

"If **the world** hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. (Joh 15:18)

Question: Does Jesus mean that Christians will hate Christians, because Christians are a part of the world? Or, does it mean that a certain segment of the world – even all kinds of people in the world – will hate you?

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, **whom the world cannot receive**, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (Joh 14:16-17)

Question: How do you receive the Holy Spirit if you cannot? Is every single person unable to receive the Spirit of truth, or is that limited to those in whom the Spirit does not dwell?

"World" is used of believers only:

"**For God so loved the world**, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (Joh 3:16-17)

They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the **Savior of the world**." (Joh 4:42)

For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and **gives life to the world**." (Joh 6:33)

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who **takes away the sin of the world!**" (Joh 1:29)

that is, in Christ God was **reconciling the world to himself**, **not** counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. (2Co 5:19)

He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the **whole world**. (1Jn 2:2)

Discussion: Describe a situation where one would consider it loving to the person to a) prevent them from dying when you have absolute power to save them and b) by you not saving them, they suffer for all eternity. If someone did that to you, would you consider it an act of love or an act of wrath? Does your answer change if the person wants to die and suffer for all eternity? Why or why not?

Question: is every single person saved or only believers?

Question: does the bread of God give life to every single person or to believers?

Question: Does the Lamb of God take away the sins of every single person or of believers?

Question: Does God not count the trespasses against every single person or does he not count the trespasses of believers?

Question: Is God's wrath appeased (propitiated) against every single person or against believers?

Question: Does God take away the sin of every single person or only those who believe in Him.

Question: Apart from presuppositions we bring to the table, do these verses seem to be direct statements of fact or conditional statements of potentiality?

"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that **the world may believe that you have sent me. (Joh 17:20-21)**

Question: Who are "these only"?

Question: If the world is every single person, then how does Jesus conclude that the world will believe that God has sent him if he's only praying for those who will believe in Him through the Word of God? Does every single person end up believing?