

# The Whole World

By Mark Hatfield

Often we have our young people sing the song, "He's Got **The Whole World In His Hands**". This song expresses the reality that God is over every aspect of creation. We serve a holy God who loves us and wants us to recognize His power, His glory and His majesty. As we think about the "**whole world**", let us look at passages that specifically speak of what the Lord has done for those that inhabit the earth. A passage that first comes to mind is John 3:16-17.

16 "For God so loved **the world**, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

17 "For God did not send the Son into **the world** to judge **the world**, but that **the world** might be saved through Him.

We are here today to remember the Lord Jesus Christ and His sacrifice on the cross for our sins. Do we fully comprehend the magnitude of the reality that Jesus came to save the world? Let us think about what could have happened as we examine Job 34:12-15.

12 "Surely, God will not act wickedly, and the Almighty will not pervert justice.

13 "Who gave Him authority over the earth? And who has laid {on Him} the **whole world**?

14 "If He should determine to do so, if He should gather to himself His spirit and His breath,

15 All flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust.

God could have stripped us of His eternal care and love and we would quickly amount to nothing. Even today, people continue to live in unrighteousness in spite of the great lengths that God has gone to in seeking to release mankind from the burden of sin. People are interested in the whole world, but not the Creator. People only look upon the flesh that will eventually return to the dust, and they forget about the soul that is going to spend eternity somewhere; either in heaven or in hell. Consider Matthew 16:26-27.

26 "For what will it profit a man if he gains **the whole world** and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

27 "For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and **WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS**.

The Lord wants us to hear His words and respond through humble submission, so that we can make Him our Lord and Savior. How did God intend for all the world to be saved. Read Mark 16:15-16.

15 And He said to them, "Go into **all the world** and preach the gospel to all creation.

16 "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

While we wait for the return of the Son, Jesus Christ, we are busy trying to proclaim the gospel; the good news about the Lord. Our faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior is to be expressed to the whole world. Look at Romans 1:8

8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout **the whole world**.

While it is the whole world that is under the influence of the devil, we who are Christians are still susceptible to the schemes of wickedness. Our goal is to be faithful in all things so that we can hold fast during difficult times. Let's read Revelation 3:10-11.

10 "Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that {hour} which is about to come upon **the whole world**, to test those who dwell on the earth.

11 "I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

We are to remain true to the Lord because one day Satan and all of his wicked devices will be destroyed by the Lord and those who overcome Him by the blood of the Lamb and the word. We remember the blood that was shed for our salvation as we partake of these emblems today. We must be willing to dedicate ourselves to the Lord even at the cost of our own life. For example, please turn to Revelation 12:7-11.

7 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war,

8 and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven.

9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives **the whole world**; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.

11 "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.

Will there be times when we are going to sin and give in to temptation? Yes. Do you think that there will be others in the world that will also find themselves struggling with sin? Yes. Turn and read I John 2:1-6.

1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;  
2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for {those of} **the whole world**.  
3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.  
4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;  
5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him:  
6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

You are either of God or of the evil one. Those who are in the Lord are of the Lord. While the whole world has an opportunity to be saved, they are under the influence of the devil. We must be willing to accept what the Lord has done for us and respond to the gospel. After which we must continually walk in His ways. We read in I John 5:19-20.

19 We know that we are of God, and that **the whole world** lies in {the power of} the evil one.  
20 And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

Eternal life can be yours if you will give control of your life over to the Lord. If you are not a Christian, it is obvious that God has done everything that He can to lead you to salvation and out of this sinful world. If you are a Christian, you cannot forget that you were once lost in the world, and as we share in this memorial feast, let us do so with sincere appreciation in our hearts. Thank God that he has made a plan to redeem the whole world.