

Sunday, August 18, 2024—The Conspiratorial Mindset: A Scriptural Investigation (Course Of The World)

Introduction/Review

- Over the last four weeks we been looking at the Conspiratorial Mindset from a scriptural point of view. My decision to do so was based upon the concerns I have regarding how Conspiratorial Thinking is impacting the body of Christ, particularly men, husbands, & fathers. It is taking people's focus off "things above" (Col. 3:1-3) and causing them to focus, fixate, and obsess on things below.
- The Bible recognizes the existence of conspiracies.
- The fact that conspiracies do exist does not mean that any particular conspiracy theory is true.
- There are fewer conspiracies than people think. There are two reasons for this:
 - Humans are not good at keeping secrets.
 - Humans are not good at cooperating with one another.
 - Acts 23:12-16
- *Conspiracy Mindset*: The willingness to believe/accept conspiracy theories in the absence of proof. Coupled with the propensity to pattern one's life accordingly.
- I provided the following outline for this course of study (assistance provided by David Reid's message titled "[The Conspiracy Mindset](#)"):
 - Biblical Conspiracies
 - The Trans-Dispensational standard of proof is two or three witnesses.
 - In the absence of proof asserting the existence of a conspiracy is evil surmising and false accusation.
 - The believer should be known for moderation.
 - Focus on worldly matters and not "things above."
 - God will handle all conspiracy that actually exist.
 - The conspiracy we should be concerned about is the Satanic conspiracy to hide the gospel.

- This morning, I would like to conclude this series by looking briefly at “the course of this world” and where it should fit into our thinking regarding the Conspiratorial Mindset.

The Course of This World

- Ephesians 2:1-3—the Apostle Paul tells the Ephesians that there is a “course” to this world that has been charted by the “prince of the power of the air.” Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language* provides many definitions for the English word “course” lets consider a few of them:
 - “In its general sense, a passing; a moving, or motion forward, in a direct or curving line; applicable to any body or substance, solid or fluid.”
 - “The direction of motion; line of advancing; point of compass, in which motion is directed; as, what course shall the pilot steer? In technical language, the angle contained between the nearest meridian and that point of compass on which a ship sails in any direction.”
- Satan is moving this world along a “course” or in the direction he wants to see things go or progress.
- Regarding the “course of this world” Paul states the following:
 - Believers, before they were saved “walked according” according to this “course.”
 - The course is charted by Satan i.e., the adversary is steering things in a specific direction.
 - The operative forces of Satan’s course are:
 - The lusts of the flesh
 - Desires of the flesh & of the mind.
 - Ephesians 4:17-19—this is how we used to walk when we were part of the world.
 - Colossians 1:12-13—we have been delivered from the “power of darkness.’
- Ephesians 2:2-3—“the course of this world” is not a conspiracy theory because the scriptures explicitly tell us that it exists. While the scriptures are clear as to what direction this world is headed, they are not clear on all the details of who Satan’s plan will unfold. Therefore, speculating about “things on earth” takes our eye off the ball and focuses our attention on trying to understand the “course of this world” that we have been delivered from.

- II Thessalonians 2:7—“the mystery of iniquity” that will culminate in the manifestation of the “son of perdition” whose “coming is after the working of Satan” is already at work during the dispensation of grace.
 - II Thessalonians 2:6-7—the presence of the body of Christ i.e., the “one new man” (Eph. 2:15) is restraining and withholding the full onset of the mystery of iniquity.
- The “course of this world” and the “mystery of iniquity” will culminate with Satan’s glorification of himself after the end of the dispensation of grace and rapture of the body of Christ. We know from the prophetic scriptures what will transpire on earth during the 70th week of Daniel but we don’t know the specifics of all that will occur before the body of Christ is caught up to meet the Lord in the air.
 - Revelation 13:15-17—one world economic system.
 - Revelation 13:3-4—one world religion.
 - Our current politics is rooted in a clash between Globalism & Nationalism.
 - Prophecy is not being fulfilled during the dispensation of grace. We don’t know how long the dispensation of grace is going to last. What we see going on the world might materialize into something specific during the 70th week but we do not and cannot know for sure.
 - Matthew 24:15—Christ gave Israel specific things to look for to promote proper action. It doesn’t work that way for the body of Christ.
- Our Apostle Paul gives us general trends to look for as members of the body of Christ.
 - I Timothy 4:1-4
 - II Timothy 3:1-7, 13
- The Conspiratorial Mindset is rooted in a desire to understand, explain, and anticipate the course of this present evil world. It will bring you nothing but misery and shipwreck.
- Fact Checking, Disinformation, & Scripture (Adapted from Justin Johnson)
 - The Bible calls disinformation ... lies.
 - The Bible calls misinformation ... ignorance.
 - The Bible calls facts ... truth.

- The Bible says God is the highest authority on facts: “Let God be true” (Rom 3:4). What anyone else says is potential misinformation (“but every man a liar”) due to “being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them” (Eph 4:18).
- The ruler of this present world is the father of disinformation (“father of lies”).
- His disinformation campaign is the biggest conspiracy in the past two thousand years. Jesus was cancelled over it. So was Paul. You might be, too.
- Make no mistake, the battle over information is a battle for who decides truth. Beware those professing to be wise who deny what the Bible says.

Conclusion

- *Conspiracy Mindset*: The willingness to believe/accept conspiracy theories in the absence of proof. Coupled with the propensity to pattern one’s life accordingly.
- What have we learned about the Conspiratorial Mindset?
 - Violates the trans-dispensational standard of proof that required 2 or 3 witnesses.
 - Participates in and promotes evil surmising and false accusations.
 - Inconsistent with the believer’s duty to live in moderation.
 - Focus on worldly matters not on things above.
 - Ignores the fact that God will deal with any real conspiracies that actually do exist.
 - Focuses the believer’s attention on political and current events rather than on Satan’s conspiracy to hide the gospel.
- Romans 16:19—every moment spent fixating on conspiracies is a moment spent not renewing your mind and setting your affection on this above.
- Don’t let the enemy steal your joy and peace by causing you to believe the lie that better understanding the course of this present evil world is going to bring you peace, stability, and security. It will not!