

From the Handbook for Business, the Bible

8: Get wisdom and understanding - Part 1

The last 2 sessions were quite intense as we looked at your marketplace in a new light!

Jesus challenged the operators of a system he called a 'den of thieves' (**Luke 19:46**) while John warned about it too, describing it as 'Babylon, run by merchants of the earth' (**Rev. 18:10-11**).

Our point is simply that this system still operates today and way too many people, including Christians, have unwittingly been caught up in it.

What strategies does the god of this world (2 Corin 4:4) use to trap people?

There are many but the 'Big-4' in my research are...

- 1: He entices people to **love money**, meaning they can't love God or their neighbour
- 2: In choosing to serve God or Mammon, he lures people into **serving mammon**
- 3: He deceives people to lay up **treasures on earth** instead of treasures in heaven
- 4: He distracts people's attention with **worldly lusts**, entertainment, sport, food, sex, etc

He then packages all this into what Jesus described Babylon's 'delicacies' (**Rev 18:3**) making such choices seem normal & good; even a gift from above; so it's no wonder people fall for it!

...The reality is, in Babylon, people are slaves, even becoming tradeable commodities - **18:13**

The obvious question then, what can we do about it?

Let's focus at the **personal** level today (next week, the **business** level) ...

First, understand what's happening; don't bury your head in the sand; or believe, *ignorance is bliss*; it's not; we are God's children, living by the truth of His Word, not the world's deception.

For example, **Proverbs 4:7** declares, "*Wisdom is the principal thing, therefore get wisdom and with all thy getting, get understanding*" - KJV (Note: Wisdom is desirable but understanding is crucial, and comes only from the Bible and the Spirit's leading).

Second, with understanding we can abide by the Handbook, e.g., **Proverbs 27:12**, "*Sensible people foresee trouble and hide. Gullible people go ahead and suffer*" (**God's Word Translation**)

...The gullible would say, if you can't beatem, joinem; or, everyone's doing it, must be ok

...But we won't be gullible if we follow the operations manual of life & business, the Bible

...And don't envy those people operating in & taking advantage of Babylon - **Prov 24:1**

Third, understanding the system means you are positioned to act (i.e., do the opposite) ...

...In a world of selfish love, we live by selfless love; in a world that loves \$\$, we love people; in a world on the take, we give; in a world of lies, we speak truth; in a world full of pride, we are humble; in a world that puts trust in man, we trust in God; in a world smitten with temporary things, we seek the eternal; the world is in turmoil but we have the peace of God.

How can we sum up today's session?

Remember this world is not our home, it's our assignment. With wisdom & understanding, we can see how things operate, so we focus on our mission to be "...a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness" (**Romans 2:19**) - "them" here will include staff, customers family, the marketplace and your community.