

Slaying Dragons – Daniel Kolenda

Chapter 4 – The Zeitgeist

The number shown in brackets is the page where the passage shown may be found.

[p61] ZEITGEIST is a German word that literally means time spirit. It refers to the spirit of the times, or the spirit of the age.

[p61] The world is changing so quickly now that each new generation seems to have its own distinct culture, almost foreign to the previous generation.

[p63] There is an interesting way in which the zeitgeist of each era most often seems to find itself in opposition to the Christian worldview. There is a consistent theme of antipathy for Christ and all that He stands for.

[p63] From the biblical perspective the zeitgeist is not an abstraction. Literal spirits—powerful, demonic spirits—are actively pushing an agenda from their high places.

[p63] “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world” (1 John 2:16, KJV). Remember, Genesis 3:6 says Eve “saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food” (the lust of the flesh). It was “pleasing to the eye” (lust of the eyes). And it was “also desirable for gaining wisdom” (the pride of life).

[p64] Today Satan holds the whole world under his dominion through enslaved minds. “The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving” (2 Cor. 4:4, NASB). But this way of thinking does not seem obviously demonic on the surface. In fact, it feels quite natural.

[p64] If you aren’t being persecuted, perhaps you are so in line with the spirit of the age that you are no threat to it.

[p64] The world hates us for the same reason it hated Jesus. His life was in direct contradiction to the spirit of the age, and He had the power to conquer the spirit of the age.

[p65] Think about how powerful the influence of Jesus Christ has been. A man who died at thirty-three years of age has more than two billion followers two thousand years later!

[p67] The idea of human rights is a Christian idea. The idea of individual freedom to choose is a Christian idea. The idea of natural law is a Christian idea. Freedom of speech, separation of church and state, and even the scientific method are products of Christianity.

[p67] The greatest society man has ever built has been under attack by the very people who benefit from it.

The Cross – Divine Wisdom

[p68] The divine way of thinking is so contrary to the satanic way that when God made His most brilliant move, Satan never saw it coming. Neither did those who think like Satan.

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[p68] God's wisdom looks nothing like human wisdom.

[p69] How can we use the enemy's methods to overcome the enemy? The moment we take them up, we lose the battle and align ourselves with the enemy.

You Are the Light of the World

[p70] When we are filled with the Holy Spirit and therefore receive the mind of Christ, we become reflections of His light!

[p70] We who are children of the light are expected to walk contrary to all that is in the world.

[p70] People of the world love themselves; we love not our lives. They love money; we love sacrifice. They are proud and boastful; we are meek and humble. They blaspheme; we worship. They are lawless; we are obedient. They are unthankful, unholy, and unloving; we are grateful, pure, and full of Christlike charity. They are bitter; we forgive. They slander; we praise. They are brutal; we are gentle. They despise good; we contend for it. They love pleasure; we love God.

[p71] Faith operates not by what is seen but by the Word of God.

Battles And Builders

[p71] To conform to the pattern of this world is to come under the influence of the antichrist spirit—whether we realize it or not.

[p72] Jesus is black and white in His teaching. There isn't much nuance in His positions.

[p72] If you have not made a conscious decision to serve God, then by default you fight for the other side—against God!

[p73] Sheer radicalism comprises the majority of Jesus' teaching. He is unambiguous about the requirements to follow Him. His kingdom cannot afford people who serve Jesus without full surrender. Not only are they unhelpful, but they are also actively harmful.

[p73] There are only two main spirits in the world. There is the spirit of Christ and the spirit of antichrist. To align with one is to reject the other.

[p74] Lukewarm Christian, you are one of the devil's most powerful weapons against the gospel. When people look at you and see the life you live and realize your life is no different than theirs, they become convinced they don't need Jesus.

[p75] Joining the army of the Lord is not simply a matter of going down to a recruitment office and enlisting. We are not by nature citizens of this kingdom. We are natural enemies of God. We cannot begin merely by joining Christ. We must first surrender!

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

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1. What are some things that characterize the current zeitgeist of your world/culture?
2. How are the trends of culture and society in opposition to the spirit of Christ?
3. What are some philosophies or systems of belief you have adopted that might be contrary to the teachings of Jesus?
4. How do we guard our hearts against the pervasive influence of the spirit of the age?

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