

city."

Peter, in I Pet. 2:11 says, "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul". And Paul, in II Tim. 2:4 exhorts us not to entangle ourselves with the affairs of this life, because we are soldiers of Christ. These various statements in the New Testament on this regard are not simply theoretical statements. The teaching of the New Testament is that Satan is the prince of this world. It is the teaching that the devil goes about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour, and also as an angel of light, who would deceive the very elect, if that were possible. And it is the teaching that this power is committed to Satan for the entire course of this age. When a man sinned this world fell into Satan's hands. It is ~~not~~ God's world and God will purge it and cleanse it from that which is contrary to His will, but He has chosen, for the present time to permit Satan to remain in control. Jesus Christ destroyed the power of Satan at Calvary. In principle He smote Satan and put an end to his power, but the book of Romans says that God will bruise Satan under your feet shortly. That which Jesus did in principle has not yet been realized in the outworking, and they are not told that it will be realized in outworking in this life. It is most discouraging to a man, a fine Christian man, who gets an ideal, of great social betterment, and human progress, to spend years and years of his life in building up a wonderful social system and doing a great amount of good, and then to find evil and sin creeping in and often to end his life in disappointment and discouragement. And he would be saved from this disappointment and discouragement if he would realize that we do everything good that we can along the way, but our primary purpose is not that. That we are strangers and pilgrims in this earth. We are seeking a heavenly country, we are following Christ, Who for His own purpose, has permitted Satan to remain in control during this age, in order that He can build our character and form the bride of Christ and can build the body of Christ out of this world.