

Be aware of this strategy of evil

Bible passage

Revelation 17 *The Great Prostitute*

5 A mysterious name was written on her forehead: "Babylon the Great, Mother of All Prostitutes and Obscenities in the World." (NLT)

Devotion

In John's time, one could sum up Roman culture in three words: money, sex and power! In this section, the immoral and materialistic lifestyle of Roman culture is presented as a prostitute. The prostitute is presented as Babylon (v. 5), a symbolic name for Rome because Rome, like Babylon of old, threatened the existence of God's new people, the Christians. Rome is also called Babylon because, like that nation, Rome destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem.

John was carried away in a vision to look at the woman in the desert. This was in the same spot where the Church was (Rev. 12:6), which shows that the Church was not immune to the influence of this infamous woman.

It is sad to see how many Christians have stumbled before the temptations of money, sex and power. This section in Revelation makes it clear that the culture in which we live can exert an enormous influence over our lives. As Christians, we must be aware of the temptations of money, sex and power. We must be honest and admit that it is not always easy to resist them! Materialism and immorality lead to an addiction to gambling, illicit sex and pornography and eventually causes our downfall. If you are caught up in this evil grip, it would be wise to talk about it with someone whom you trust. It will not disappear spontaneously. Victory is possible!

Prayer

Lord, please protect me from the dangers of money, sex and power.

Today's Quote

Temptation is a woman's weapon and man's excuse.

—Henry Louis Mencken

temptations