

Ministry of Grace

Revelation Chapter 18 - Speaker Notes

In the previous chapter we saw the image of the harlot sitting upon the scarlet beast. That chapter portrayed the harlot as the “anti-god religious system” throughout history. It is also clearly portrayed as the formal religious system of the end times. This harlot will be destroyed by the kings who hate her, most likely at the middle of Daniel’s seventieth week (mid-trib) when the Beast seats himself in the temple of Jerusalem, proclaiming himself to be god. Then, in the last verse of the chapter we saw this statement:

And the woman that you saw is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth."

This may serve as an introduction to the following vision of the great city of Babylon contained in chapter 18. In this chapter, John describes the city of Babylon as a representation of the political and economic system of the beast.

A close examination of **Revelation 17:1-18** and **Revelation 18:1-24** reveals that these two representations of Babylon are different. The great harlot of chapter 17 is *associated* with the great political power, but is not that political power itself. Notice that the destruction of the harlot is not mourned by the earth dwellers. By contrast, the destruction of Babylon in this chapter brings loud mourning from the earth’s political and economic powers. What is pictured in this eighteenth chapter is a large, prosperous city which represents the center of political and economic life during Daniel’s seventieth week.

Keep in mind that the tribulation will be a time when formal religion will rise in prominence (during the first half) and then will be nonexistent during the second half. The earth dwellers will be delighted to see “religion” disappear so that they can focus all their energies on obtaining wealth (which will become the new religion). They will think they are ignoring God, when in reality they will be defying Him.

Revelation 18:1

After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory.

“After this” – This indicates that the events of chapter 18 are a separate vision from chapter 17.

“another angel” – Some have claimed that this is Christ himself. The word “another” is *allos*, meaning another of the same kind. Therefore, this is not Christ but another angel like the one in chapter 17.

“the earth was made bright” –The earth is now illuminated by this mighty angel. The picture of the angel illuminating the earth brings to mind the appearance of the angel to the shepherds at the time of Christ’s birth:

And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. (Luke 2:9)

Revelation 18: 2

And he called out with a mighty voice, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast.

“Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!” - Notice that this is the same exact proclamation made by the angel in **Revelation 14:8** just before the harvesting of the earth. Literally it is “fell, fell, Babylon the great, and became a dwelling place ...” This destruction of the world system is symbolized in the pouring out of the seventh bowl judgment:

The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, “It is done!” And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake. The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and *God remembered Babylon the great*, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath. (**Revelation 16:17-19**)

The first thing we notice about this Babylon is that it is a *place*, not a *religious system*. This distinguishes it from the Babylon described in the previous chapter, “Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations.” (**Revelation 17:5**) The fact that Babylon, in chapter 17, was described as a prostitute who is associated with abominable actions indicates that it was primarily a religious system. The Babylon described in this chapter is primarily a political and socio-economic system, although it contains elements of idolatry.

Compare John's description of the fall of Babylon with what the Prophet Isaiah said:

"I will rise up against them," declares the LORD of hosts, "and will cut off from Babylon name and remnant, descendants and posterity," declares the LORD. "And I will make it a possession of the hedgehog, and pools of water, and I will sweep it with the broom of destruction," declares the LORD of hosts. (**Isaiah 14:22-23**)

And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the splendor and pomp of the Chaldeans, will be like Sodom and Gomorrah when God overthrew them. It will never be inhabited or lived in for all generations; no Arab will pitch his tent there; no shepherds will make their flocks lie down there. But wild animals will lie down there, and their houses will be full of howling creatures; there ostriches will dwell, and there wild goats will dance. Hyenas will cry in its towers, and jackals in the pleasant palaces; its time is close at hand and its days will not be prolonged. (**Isaiah 13:19-22**)

“a dwelling place” – This is from the Greek word *katoikētērion*, which has the same root as *katoikeō* (to dwell permanently).

“a haunt” – This is from the Greek word *phulakē*, which means “the place where someone is watched, guarded, or kept in custody, that is, a prison.” It appears that this is the place to which all unclean things will be banished during the Millennium. This is one more indication of how idyllic life will be during the thousand-year reign of Christ.

Revelation 18:3

For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living."

“sexual immorality” – This is from the Greek word *porneias* referring to harlotry. Throughout the Bible this is an image of idolatry. In this case it is most likely a reference to the church worshipping riches rather than God.

“merchants” – From the Greek *emporos*, which is made up of *en* meaning “in” and *poros* meaning “a passageway.” Originally it meant one who was a passenger in a ship going from one place to another. Later it came to mean “one who trades with foreign countries by sea or land.”

“have committed immorality” – Literally, “committed fornication.” Keep in mind that spiritual fornication is giving praise and honor to anyone or anything other than God. This is clearly a reference to spiritual fornication.

“have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living.” – Literally, “became wealthy from the power of her luxury.”

So, what is the sexual immorality of this Babylon? We saw in the previous chapter that the harlot was a false religious system and the practice of that religion constituted little more than idolatry. This Babylon appears to be a system that puts supreme importance on the acquiring of wealth and “stuff.” Notice the emphasis on riches and luxury. Apparently, the “god” that is worshipped by the people of the kingdom of the beast is really an idol and it is “wealth.” James, in his general epistle may have been prophetically speaking of this time and event when he said:

Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. (James 5:1-3)

Actually, it appears that this Babylon is the epitome of “the world system.” Although the beast is apparently revered as a “god,” he seems to represent all that is in the world:

For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. (1 John 2:16)

Satan and his “world system” will control the lives of people during the last half of Daniel’s 70th week by igniting the lusts of the people and by providing a “playground” where all forms of pleasure and self-satisfaction can be indulged to the fullest.

Revelation 18:4, 5

Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues; for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

“another voice from heaven” – Since “another” is *allos*, meaning “another of the same kind,” this is most likely the voice of another angel proclaiming God’s message.

“Come out of her” –It is a common theme throughout the Bible for God to admonish His people to “come out” and to be separate from the world. Not only did God warn Israel to separate herself from the nations around her, Christians are admonished to separate themselves from the world system and the things of the world as well:

Depart, depart, go out from there; touch no unclean thing; go out from the midst of her; purify yourselves, you who bear the vessels of the LORD. (Isaiah 52:11)

Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, (2 Corinthians 6:17)

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (1 John 2:15)

“heaped high as heaven” – The best texts read “have been stuck together as far as heaven.” This may be a play on words because of the bricks of the tower of Babel having been “stuck” or “glued” together with mortar and the tower was intended to reach into heaven.

“God has remembered her iniquities.” – Contrast this with what God said to the Jews through the prophet Jeremiah:

For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. (Jeremiah 31:34)

This was a promise made by God to the Israelites that will be fulfilled during the reign of the Messiah (during the Millennium).

Revelation 18:6, 7

Pay her back as she herself has paid back others, and repay her double for her deeds; mix a double portion for her in the cup she mixed. As she glorified herself and lived in luxury, so give her a like measure of torment and mourning, since in her heart she says, 'I sit as a queen, I am no widow, and mourning I shall never see.'

This apparently is an indication from the angel of what God is about to do. It is not our place to take vengeance, as Paul told us in the book of Romans:

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." (Romans 12:19)

God is now taking out his vengeance on the world system of Satan.

“and repay her double for her deeds” – Literally this reads, “double to her double according to her works.”

This is the same “double for her sins” that Israel received:

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. (Isaiah 40:1, 2)

“she glorified herself and lived in luxury” – As we have already said, the overarching spiritual fornication that exists in the Babylonian world system of Satan in the end times is pleasure and self-glorification. God will respond to this with torment and sorrow.

“torment” – The Greek word is *basinismos*, which refers to the pain of torture.

“I sit as a queen, I am no widow, and mourning I shall never see.” – This is another example of those of the world system of Satan taking credit for all that God has provided. Compare this verse with what Isaiah said:

Sit in silence, and go into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans; for you shall no more be called the mistress of kingdoms. (Isaiah 47:5)

Now therefore hear this, you lover of pleasures, who sit securely, who say in your heart, "I am, and there is no one besides me; I shall not sit as a widow or know the loss of children" (Isaiah 47:8)

Revelation 18:8

For this reason her plagues will come in a single day, death and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for mighty is the Lord God who has judged her.

Compare this with what Isaiah had to say:

These two things shall come to you in a moment, in one day; the loss of children and widowhood shall come upon you in full measure, in spite of your many sorceries and the great power of your enchantments. (Isaiah 47:9)

The destruction of the city of Babylon will occur suddenly. It will start with “death and mourning and famine.” Then, suddenly the city will be burned with fire, perhaps in the same way that Sodom and Gomorrah were burned with fire and brimstone coming down from heaven.

“burned up with fire” – Literally “completely burned down with fire.”

Revelation 18:9, 10

And the kings of the earth, who committed sexual immorality and lived in luxury with her, will weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning. They will stand far off, in fear of her torment, and say, "Alas! Alas! You great city, you mighty city, Babylon! For in a single hour your judgment has come."

“kings of the earth” - The first group of mourners identified are the kings of the earth. They will cry out in grief and great sorrow because the system upon which they have built their empires is crashing at their feet. This is not unlike bankers and investors who were destroyed by the stock market crash in the first half of the 20th century. The specific kings mentioned here are most likely the ten kings who rule beneath the beast. They have committed harlotry (the Biblical symbol of spiritual unfaithfulness and spiritual rejection of God) with the world system. That is, they have made the attaining of riches their god, which is the final form of idolatry before the return of Christ.

“weep” – Greek *klaio*, meaning “to weep, wail, or lament, implying not only the shedding of tears, but also every external expression of grief.”

“wail” – Greek *koptomai*, meaning “to strike or beat one's body, particularly the breast, with the hands in lamentation, to lament, to wail, to express great sorrow.”

“Alas, alas” – This could also be translated as, “woe, woe.” It is given to show an exclamation of great grief and sorrow.

“For in a single hour your judgment has come.” – They will be amazed at the rapidity of the destruction of Babylon, recognizing that it means the destruction of the entire economic system they have staked their kingdoms on. They will also recognize it as judgment from God. Remember in verse seven when this economic system thought itself invincible? *I sit as a queen, I am no widow, and mourning I shall never see.*

Revelation 18:11 - 13

And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her, since no one buys their cargo anymore, cargo of gold, silver, jewels, pearls, fine linen, purple cloth, silk, scarlet cloth, all kinds of scented wood, all kinds of articles of ivory, all kinds of articles of costly wood, bronze, iron and marble, cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and slaves, that is, human souls.

“merchants of the earth” – The next group to mourn the loss of Babylon is the merchants (those engaged in world trade). Notice that their mourning is not for the loss of the city and its people, but for their own loss: people will no longer buy their merchandise and they will suffer the loss of riches which they would have gained.

“weep” – Greek *klaio*, meaning “to weep, wail, or lament, implying not only the shedding of tears, but also every external expression of grief.”

“mourn” – Greek *pentheō*, meaning “to grieve or to mourn.” This is the inward mourning that leads to the outward expression of grief (*koptomai*).

The reason for the distress of the merchants is that they no longer have customers for their expensive goods.

“fine linen, purple cloth, silk, scarlet cloth” – The fabrics that are mentioned, fine linen and silk are most highly prized in very hot climates because they afford the wearer with clothing which allows the body heat to escape. This is a possible indication that this is the actual city of Babylon which is being described.

Notice the list of goods includes expensive or extravagant things, not the staples of life. Also notice that the list of goods includes “and slaves, that is, human souls.” Obviously, a form of slavery for the very rich exists in this world system. John Phillips in his book *Exploring Revelation* wrote:

What a catalog of opulence! What a vivid picture of a great, commercial city, trafficking in every luxury the heart could desire. This is the world’s great Vanity Fair. It offers articles of adornment and display, beautiful things to grace the mansions of the world’s millionaires. It deals in exotic spices and perfumes, in delicacies for the table, in provisions for banquets, in slaves, and in the souls of men. And Babylon imported all these things. ... Babylon’s demand for this world’s goods was insatiable; ever it clamored for more and more! (Phillips, 1987)

Revelation 18: 14

The fruit for which your soul longed has gone from you, and all your delicacies and your splendors are lost to you, never to be found again!

“fruit” – This is not the normal Greek word for fruit (*karpos*) but *opōra*, which is most likely derived from *opos*, meaning “juice” and *hora*, meaning “hour” or “time of.” *Opōra* literally refers to “late autumn, when fruit is finally ready to be picked.” Hence this likely refers to fruit that is at its peak ripeness, the very best.

“delicacies” – from the Greek word *liparos*, which refers to fatness of food. It could also refer to the shininess of the skin after being anointed with oil after a bath. Homer used this word to refer to the luxurious conditions of life, rich and comfortable.

“splendors” – from the Greek word *lampros*, which means “bright, shining, radiant, or dazzling. It is almost always used to describe clothing.

“never to be found again” – This is expressed with the Greek *ouketi*, meaning “no longer” followed by the double negative *ou mē*, which means “absolutely not at all!” This is the most emphatic negative that can be expressed in the Greek language.

All that is desirable in food and luxury items are gone from Babylon and will no longer exist in that city and will never exist there again, forever.

Revelation 18:15-17a

The merchants of these wares, who gained wealth from her, will stand far off, in fear of her torment, weeping and mourning aloud, "Alas, alas, for the great city that was clothed in fine linen, in purple and scarlet, adorned with gold, with jewels, and with pearls! For in a single hour all this wealth has been laid waste."

What a portrayal of uncaring, self-serving greed that these merchants seem to have no care for the lives lost or even for the loss of their capital city! Their reason for grief is the fact that their source of wealth is gone. They have been so focused on the world system that when it is gone they will not know where to turn for comfort and security.

Revelation 18:17b-19

And all shipmasters and seafaring men, sailors and all whose trade is on the sea, stood far off and cried out as they saw the smoke of her burning, "What city was like the great city?" And they threw dust on their heads as they wept and mourned, crying out, "Alas, alas, for the great city where all who had ships at sea grew rich by her wealth! For in a single hour she has been laid waste.

The third group to mourn over the loss of the great city of Babylon includes those who transport goods from one place to another. The fact that the three groups of mourners include rulers, merchants, and transporters indicates that this city is, once again, representative of an economic system more than a political or religious system. The final world empire, under the control of Satan and the beast, will make the acquiring of wealth and goods their god to the exclusion of all other religious systems and ideologies.

“threw dust on their heads” – This is not a sign of repentance but an ancient expression of grief.

“wept” – Greek *klaio*, meaning “to weep, wail, or lament, implying not only the shedding of tears, but also every external expression of grief.”

“mourned” – Greek *pentheō*, meaning “to grieve or to mourn.” This is the inward mourning that leads to the outward expression of grief (*koptomai*).

Revelation 18:20

Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, for God has given judgment for you against her!"

The angel of verse one and two now directs his comments to the heavenly throng (most likely watching the events as they transpire). In deference to the pain and anguish which is occurring on the earth there is a proclamation of rejoicing in heaven. The rejoicing is over the fact that God has finally judged the world system of Satan.

Revelation 18:21

Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence, and will be found no more;

The mighty angel pictured here is performing a symbolic act. The casting of the millstone into the sea indicates the total destruction and annihilation of all that Babylon stands for and all those who participate.

This has an amazing resemblance to what Jeremiah said regarding the destruction of Babylon:

And Jeremiah said to Seraiah: "When you come to Babylon, see that you read all these words, and say, 'O LORD, you have said concerning this place that you will cut it off, so that nothing shall dwell in it, neither man nor beast, and it shall be desolate forever.' When you finish reading this book, tie a stone to it and cast it into the midst of the Euphrates, and say, 'Thus shall Babylon sink, to rise no more, because of the disaster that I am bringing upon her, and they shall become exhausted.'" Thus far are the words of Jeremiah. ([Jeremiah 51:61-64](#))

Revelation 18:22, 23a

and the sound of harpists and musicians, of flute players and trumpeters, will be heard in you no more, and a craftsman of any craft will be found in you no more, and the sound of the mill will be heard in you no more, and the light of a lamp will shine in you no more, and the voice of bridegroom and bride will be heard in you no more,

None of the activities of the world system, entertainment, craftsmen working at their trade, preparation of food, night time activities, and the sounds of love, will ever exist in Babylon again. Notice the five times that the expression “not ... anymore” is proclaimed. This is the final end of Babylon. Compare this with what the Old Testament prophets said:

And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the splendor and pomp of the Chaldeans, will be like Sodom and Gomorrah when God overthrew them. It will never be inhabited or lived in for all generations; no Arab will pitch his tent there; no shepherds will make their flocks lie down there. (Isaiah 13:19, 20)

I will rise up against them," declares the LORD of hosts, "and will cut off from Babylon name and remnant, descendants and posterity," declares the LORD. (Isaiah 14:22)

Because of the wrath of the LORD she shall not be inhabited but shall be an utter desolation; everyone who passes by Babylon shall be appalled, and hiss because of all her wounds. (Jeremiah 50:13)

"Therefore wild beasts shall dwell with hyenas in Babylon, and ostriches shall dwell in her. She shall never again have people, nor be inhabited for all generations. (Jeremiah 50:39)

and Babylon shall become a heap of ruins, the haunt of jackals, a horror and a hissing, without inhabitant. (Jeremiah 51:37)

Revelation 18:23b, 24

for your merchants were the great ones of the earth, and all nations were deceived by your sorcery. And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slain on earth."

“sorcery” – This is translated from the Greek word *pharmakeia* (from which we get our English word pharmacy). It refers generically to drugs. It could be a reference to the dependence that people have on drugs to keep them “healthy,” or the drugs they use to achieve a “high.” Witchcraft and sorcery are laden with potions and drugs of various kinds. As a result, some have interpreted this as a reference to the widespread use of sorcery, magic, and witchcraft as part of everyday life in the economic system of Babylon.

Three reasons for the destruction of Babylon are given:

1. Wealth became their god.
2. The use of drugs and “magic” as a necessity in everyday life. The implication is that the people were drawn away from God and godliness. Instead of looking to God for provision, they utilized their own methods to accomplish their desires.
3. The murder of people, both holy and common. Throughout history, from the time when Cain slew Able until the end of the tribulation, the ungodly will hate the godly and kill them, often in the name of religion.

Remember that chapters 17 and 18 are looking back in time before the bowl judgments are poured out. Apparently, the destruction of Babylon spoken of in the current chapter occurs at the time just before the bowls are poured out. As the bowl judgments are poured out there will be: terrible sores all over the body, all water will be turned to blood (the oceans and fresh water), the sun will become scorching hot,

the world will be plunged into darkness, the Euphrates will be dried up (perhaps all major rivers), and a massive earthquake will strike. As this earthquake occurs, we are told:

... and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath. (Revelation 16:19)

However, we have already learned that immediately after the bowl judgments, the Sheep and Goat Judgment will occur. Based on the fact that rulers and merchants are mourning the loss of Babylon, either the destruction of Babylon occurs before the bowl judgments occur, or the comments about the kings and the merchants are metaphoric descriptions.

So What?

Based on the 17th and 18th chapters of Revelation, we've once again learned that God is a jealous God and He hates idolatry. So, what exactly, is an idol in God's eyes? It is anything that demands more of our attention, our devotion, and our worship, than Him. In chapter 17, we saw that the thing idolized was a religious system in which the religion was more important than the God it was supposed to be worshipping. We have frequently mentioned Roman Catholicism as an example of a false religion that, on the surface, appears to worship God, but in reality, the church demands more worship than God, Himself.

That's the way the "religion" of the first half of the tribulation will be. Not devoted to worshipping God, but devoted to being rich and being "in power." When the ten kings and the Beast no longer have a need for the "church," they will destroy it, demanding that the Beast receive the reverence that had formerly gone to the church. This will happen at the mid-point of the tribulation.

But – as we've seen from this chapter, the focus of the people's religion of the second half of the tribulation will not be so much on the Beast, himself, as it will be on power and riches, seeking luxuries and extravagance. In reality, it will be the "system" of the Beast that will be idolized. The people of the second half of the tribulation will love the Beast and his system. Today we refer to it as "the world system." The Apostle John described it this way:

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. (1 John 2:15-16)

And, who's in control of this world system? Satan! This is actually Satan's world system and it is as old as mankind itself. Did you ever notice what it was that enticed Eve to eat the forbidden fruit? It wasn't Satan's persuasive powers. It was the world system:

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food (the desires of the flesh), and that it was a delight to the eyes (the desires of the eyes), and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise (the pride of life), she took of its fruit and ate ... (Genesis 3:6)

The Bible tells us that all of us walked after the ways of this system before we were saved. And the Bible tells us who is running this system.

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (Ephesians 2:1-3)

It was, and is, Satan's world system, and it will be Satan's world system during the tribulation. Do you remember how Isaiah described Satan's fall?

How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." (Isaiah 14:12-14)

Satan wanted to be worshipped. He wanted to be in control, to be the most important, to control the world. The permanent earth dwellers will have no reason to resist Satan's system. By virtue of the fact that they will reject God, they will necessarily follow Satan. And, not only will they die for their beliefs, but because Satan finally will get what he wants, he will be banished to the Abyss for the next 1,000 years.

It's not surprising that the world system takes supreme prominence during the second half of the tribulation. Remember what happens in the middle of the tribulation? There is a war in heaven and Satan is kicked-out of heaven and thrown down to the earth. He will then use the world system to garner the worship of everyone, just as he has wanted from the beginning.

Now What?

How about you, my friend? Are you a friend of the world, or are you a friend of God? You can't be both. If you are a child of God, you shouldn't be a friend of the world. So, take stock of yourself. Where do your desires lie? Are they for more stuff, more authority, or more attention? Do you want to join in with all the "fun" the world is having? If so, you're aimed the wrong direction. Let's all work extra hard this week to focus on the things of God and what will make us better servants of His. Let's focus more on seeking the good of others than on seeking our own good. That's what God's love is all about.

Notice what my shirt says:

**I would rather be a friend of God and be judged by the world,
Than to be a friend of the world and be judged by God!**

That's something to think about!

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