

There is nothing in us to respond to these things. We turn them off and say: We are practical people, we deal with facts and not fancies; we live in this world, we know about material things, all else is vague, uncertain, unreal. "The natural man perceiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto Him, neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned," (1 Cor. 2:14). This is the condition of death in which the world is found.

He then points out the principles which control the natural man. *Wherein ye once walked according to the course of this world.* The life of the natural man is in the trespasses and sins and is in full accord with the spirit and methods of the world; He falls into its current, and is borne along by it, adopts its principles, lives for its ends and uses its means. His whole life is absorbed in some of its schemes; he never stops to ask what is the purpose of God in this world, nor what is the will of God in his life? These things form no part of his thoughts or plans. It is nothing to him that God say:—"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world, for all that is in the world, the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world," (1 John, 2:15-16); nor "that the whole world lieth in the wicked one" (1 John 5:19); nor that "the world passeth away and lusts thereof." In the face of all this, he gives himself up to the world, and willingly becomes a part of it, he moves with it, seeks his pleasures, his honors, his rewards in it. His walk is "according to the course of this world," regardless of the certain end to which it is carrying him.