

Reformation was caused mainly because the iniquity of the church was intolerable. This was predicted by the apostles ; so that it confirms, instead of shaking, the faith of him who believes and reads the Scriptures ; but it teaches that reference to Christendom does not do away the proof of Satan being the prince and god of this world. He has proved it more than ever, by making that which was brought in as a witness of God to be the seat of the power of his own corruption. Taking in Christendom as a whole, what do we see? Mohammedanism has overrun the eastern part and Popery the western. The north of Europe has been delivered from the latter ; and what is its state? Overrun with infidelity and Popish tendencies. I do not mean to deny that the Spirit of God is active, and that good is done in the midst of all this. I believe it, and thank God for it. But that is not the world, but a distinct power which works in the midst of it. In influencing the world and its government, Popery has made more progress the last thirty years than the power of truth. We may deplore it, but it cannot be denied. The world is far more guilty by having Christianity in its midst. But it has not ceased to be the world.

Remember, reader, that it was in connection with the death of Christ that the devil received the title of "prince of this world" (John xiv. 30), and as to his religious influence, is called "the god of this world" (2 Cor. iv. 4), who blinds the minds