

# Take Heed of the Witch

by Thomas Brooks

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*Thomas Brooks warns against the dangers of worldliness and emphasizes the necessity of holiness for true fulfillment and eternal life.*

**Scripture:** Philippians 3:18

**Topics:** "Worldliness", "Pursuit of Holiness"

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## Description

Thomas Brooks warns against the dangers of being consumed by worldly desires, emphasizing that those who prioritize earthly things become enemies of the cross of Christ, leading to destruction. He laments the tears shed for those who neglect holiness in favor of worldly pleasures, which ultimately lead to spiritual barrenness. Brooks illustrates that the allure of the world can distract believers from their spiritual responsibilities and the pursuit of holiness. He urges listeners to recognize the vanity of worldly pursuits and to fill their hearts with holiness instead of allowing them to be filled with the flesh and the devil. The sermon concludes with a stark choice between the fleeting pleasures of the world and the eternal joy found in holiness.

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## Transcript

"For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now I tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ; whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is their shame--who mind earthly things." Philippians 3:18-19

Who were those who walked disorderly?

why, those who minded earthly things.

Who were those who fetched tears from the apostle's eyes?

why, those who minded earthly things.

Who were those who were enemies to the cross of Christ?

why, those who minded earthly things.

Who were those whose end is destruction?

why, those who minded earthly things.

Who were those whose God was their belly?

why, those who minded earthly things.

Who were those whose glory was their shame?

why, those who minded earthly things.

The world proves silken halters to some,

and golden fetters to others.

If ever you would be holy--oh, then take heed of the  
witch--take heed of the world! The world often swells  
the heart with pride; it makes men forget God, neglect  
Christ, slight ordinances, and despise holiness. Ah, the  
time, the thoughts, the strength, the energies--which  
this enticing world has made many to spend and consume,  
while their souls have lain a-bleeding, and eternity has been  
hastening upon them! Oh, the deadness, the barrenness,  
the listlessness, the heartlessness to anything which is  
holy--which attends a worldly temper!

Many are so bewitched with the profits, pleasures, and  
honors of the world, that they mind not holiness, they  
regard not holiness, they care not for holiness.

The flowers of this world, are surrounded with many briers.

The world is all shadow and vanity; it is like Jonah's gourd

--you may sit under its shadow for a while, but it soon

decays and dies. He who shall but weigh . . .

man's pains with his pay,

his miseries with his pleasures,

his sorrows with his joys,

his crosses with his comforts,

his needs with his enjoyments, etc.,

may well cry out, "Vanity of vanity, and all is vanity."

The whole world is circular, the heart of man is triangular,

and we know a circle cannot fill a triangle. If the whole

earth were changed into a globe of gold, it could not fill

your heart.

O sirs, if your hearts are not filled with holiness--they will

be filled with the world, the flesh, and the devil. Either

holiness or Satan must possess you.

Is it not infinitely better to have holiness without the world,

and so be happy forever--than to have much of the world

without holiness, and so be damned forever?

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