

So That You May Know

An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John**

Chapter 9- Love Not the World

68. Part 3

WAOY Tuesday 08/14/07; WOSM Wednesday 01/04/23

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today I want to continue to look at what John taught about not loving this present world. So, let's turn in our Bibles and let's read **1John 2:15-17** again together:

15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

17 The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

In these three verses, John gives us a holy warning- an Apostolic admonition if you will. John gives us something here that we can judge ourselves by- something that we can prove whether or not the love of God is really in us:

If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Now if this verse is inspired by God; if this passage of Scripture is God breathed; if what I have just read to you is right from the Heart and Soul and Mind of God Himself; If I just read to you the Truth- which I boldly declare unto you that it is- then you and I live in a day when this verse and many others just like it are being systematically trampled upon; systematically discredited; systematically overruled; systematically discounted and rebelled against by many today.

Now I really don't think that what John says here is that complicated- but it is profound. And if the true gauge of whether or not

the love of the Father is in us is whether or not we love the world, then it would behoove us to spend a little time with this passage and it would behoove us to understand what the Holy Spirit is speaking to us through John.

When John speaks of the world, just what is he talking about? Is John talking about the dirt that grows our crops when he speaks of the world? Is John talking about the third planet in the solar system called earth? When John tells us not to love the world, does he mean that we are not to love the trees and the waterfalls and the mountains and the seas? No, he is not. Well, how do we *know* that John is not talking about all of this when he speaks of the world? Because of what the Bible tells us elsewhere.

Genesis 1:10

God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters He called seas; and God saw that it was good.

Psalms 95:4

In whose hand are the depths of the earth, The peaks of the mountains are His also.

The Acts 4:24

And when they heard *this*, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, "O Lord, it is You who *MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA, AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM,*

1Corinthians 10:26

FOR THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S, AND ALL IT CONTAINS.

You see, our God is a good God. And He is the great Creator of both Heaven and earth. It was God Who made the earth. He formed it out of nothing and threw it out into space like a top and established its orbit, where it still spins today. God made the heavens. God spoke one time and brilliant light instantly appeared throughout the universe. God took stars in His right Hand and flung them into space, and they hang today right where He threw them. God wraps Himself in light as with a garment. He sets up the heavens and He rides on the wings of the winds. God laid the foundations of the earth with great rock, and He alone upholds the delicate balance of rainfall and sunlight; heat and

cold; light and darkness that we need in order to live in the very palm of His Hand. God drew a line in the earth and told the seas that they could come this far- but no further. It was God that pushed up the ground causing great mountain ranges that make us wonder at His majesty and His power, and He touches the tops of those mountains each morning with His Finger, and they smoke.

God drew His finger in the earth, and He alone allows the rivers and creeks and great lakes and oceans to flow with the water that He made to give us life. God created all living things and God made them to sing and to roar and to cry and to chirp and wave in praise and adoration and glory and honor to Him and to Him alone- for He is good, and He is a great King above all other gods.

I'm telling you that God is good, and that which God made He called good. And all of Creation is today in perfect harmony; perfect obedience; perfect alignment; perfect submission; and perfect order with the God that made them- everything that is- except for Man.

You see, there is not a bird that sings, nor a frog that croaks, nor a cricket that chirps that does not do so at God's command and that does so in total adoration of their Creator. There is not a single bird that flies through the air that is not ordered by God; not a single fish that swims whether it is large or small that is in any way in rebellion to the holy God that formed them, and there is not a single tree that stands in the field that does not wave its branches in praise and honor and glory to the God that made it.

Everything except Man has long ago acknowledged its Creator. Everything except Man enjoys perfect fellowship with God. Everything except Man walks in harmony with God. Everything except Man.

Man, the crown of God's creation; the joy of His heart; the crown jewel in the assembly of all Creation- Man. Made in the very image and likeness of God Himself- Man. Rebellious; stiff necked and hard hearted- Man. Man that is so arrogant that he looks at a mountain and doubts God. Man- who is so stupid as to watch a baby being born and does not believe. Man that has become so wise that he is now so dumb that he can stand before incontrovertible evidence that even barbarians acknowledge and explain away Creation and the giving of life and the glory of God.

It is man- not Nature that aborts its own children. It is Man not

the seas that indulge in pornography. It is Man- not the trees of the field that blasphemes God all day long. It is Man- not the birds that fly through the air that has hate in his heart. It is Man- not the great animals that live in constant and continuous rebellion to his own Creator and who will not bow his knees and who will not submit to His ways and who will not cease from perverting the right way of the Lord.

Although there is a very small indication that there are at least some animals in heaven- because Jesus will ride a white horse when He comes back- there is no record at all in the Bible of any animal ever going to hell. Hell is reserved solely for Man- Man that will not bend; Man that will not be broken; and Man that will not repent. An Eternal lake of fire burning with brimstone reserved for the devil and his angles and those whose names are not found written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

I tell you my beloved, that it is Man who has sinned- not the earth and it is Man who needs to repent. Frogs don't sin- Man sins. Fish don't sin- Man sins. Rivers don't sin- Man sins. It is Man who has transgressed and walked contrary to a holy God. It is Man who has concocted and built and raised up entire civilizations as nothing else but as memorials to his own rebellion and who builds great towers to shake their fist in the face of a holy God, who establishes entire economic systems based in greed and who orders human development based in self-esteem and self-conceitedness and self-fulfillment- all in direct opposition to God's very Character and Nature and Word.

We can see then, when John is talking to us about the world- that he is certainly *not* talking about these things. John is referring to the *system* of the world which was invented; built, empowered, and sustained by fallen Man. John is referring to the ungodly ways of mankind; the attributes of sinful systems put in place and kept in power by unsaved and unconverted people.

The "world" was to John what Egypt was to the children of God. The "world" was to John what Babylon was to Israel. The "world" was to John what the captivity was to the Jew. The "world" was to John what Assyria was to Judah. The world is a combination of ungodly ways and systems put together by the lost- which tempts God children; which lures God's children; which enslaves God's children; and which robs God's children.

We know that every evil thing has characteristics that labels itself

to be evil. God never allows anyone to be confronted with anything that is evil that is not first identified as being evil. This is because God is faithful to show us that every temptation is nothing more than an opportunity to prove whether we love God or whether we don't. We are promised in **1Corinthians 10:13** that God is faithful to not allow us to be tempted above that we are able to bear but will with that temptation make a way of escape that we may be able to bear up under the temptation and not yield to it.

So too, the Lord has made the enemy of our souls identify himself to everyone that he is trying to destroy all during the process of temptation. The problem is not that the enemy tricked us. That should only happen one time. The problem is that we do not get strong and wise and discerning enough to see the enemy clearly. The answer is for God's people to repent and return to their first Love and to cling to the sword which is the Word of God and to weep between the porch and the altar and to quit being weak and get strong; quit making excuses and grow up; and quit talking about how bad the devil has treated them and start talking about how good God is.

I tell you that we need to evict the effeminate nature that has infiltrated the Church that has emasculated the Church and made it weak and wishy washy and undiscerning and foolish and you and I need to grab the horns of the altar and be engrafted into the true Vine so that we may receive the new divine nature of the risen Christ which will make us wise unto Salvation and so that the Word of God will abide within us and we will be strong and well able to overcome the wicked one.

John said that if you love the world, you don't have the love of the Father in you. If you love the ways of sinful man; if you love the system of unconverted people; if you are attracted to what the unsaved world is attracted to; if you sing their songs and live their lives; and walk in their ways and accept their reason- then you do not- you *cannot* possess the love of the Father.

Christians should not be involved in activities that promote greed, lust, and self-appeasement. Christians should not be attracted to things that puff up flesh and promote self. Christians should not be about the business of "getting more while the getting is good." Christians are not enamored with wealth and prosperity at the expense of their own souls.

Christians desire to glorify God- not themselves. They don't feel that they deserve blessings- they humbly accept them as gifts from a kind and loving God. Christians tear idols from their hearts- not build them. Christians desire to be content with godliness- not worldly gain. Christians desire to magnify the Lord with all they have not accept applause from other men. Christians desire to decrease not increase. Christians desire to bow- not stand. Christians desire that all glory and all honor and all praise go to God- not to any man.

John said that all that is in the world- and then he listed what he was talking about. These three deadly attributes of the world system; these three stumbling blocks to a holy walk with God; these three hindrances to coming into the presence of God clean and pure. What were they? Alcoholism? Homosexuality? Drug abuse? Divorce? Abortion? Blasphemy? No.

1. The lust of the flesh
2. The lust of the eyes
3. The boastful pride of life

These are the three deadly attributes of a pagan worldly system which is not of god, and which cannot be converted.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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