

DO NOT LOVE THE WORLD

1 JOHN 2:15-17

APRIL 25, 2021

- I. The Command: Do Not Love the World (2:15a; 5:19; John 14:30)
- II. Reasons for the Command: (2:15b-17)
 - A. Consider Its Exclusivity: You Cannot Love the World and the Father (15b; James 4:4; Matthew 6:24)
 - B. Consider the Source and Nature of Worldly Loves
 1. The Desire of the Flesh (Rom 8:5-8; Gal 5:19-21)
 2. The Desire of the Eyes (Matt 5:27-29; Job 31:1)
 3. The Pride of Possessions (3:17; Luke 15:12; Mark 12:44; Prov 18:10-11; 30:7-8; Luke 12:19; Job 31:24-28; Jer 9:23-24)
 - C. The Source: Not from the Father but from the World
 - D. Consider the End of the World (Ps 102:25-27; 2 Peter 3:7, 10-13)
- III. Application: Living IN but not OF the World (John 17; Rom 12:2; Col 3:1-2; 1 Tim 4:4-5; 6:17; James 1:17)

Two little lines I heard one day,
Traveling along life's busy way;
Bringing conviction to my heart,
And from my mind would not depart;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, a few brief years,
Each with its burdens, hopes, and fears;
Each with its clays I must fulfill,
living for self or in His will;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.

Oh let my love with fervor burn,
And from the world now let me turn;
Living for Thee, and Thee alone,
Bringing Thee pleasure on Thy throne;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, yes only one,
Soon will its fleeting hours be done;
Then, in 'that day' my Lord to meet,
And stand before His Judgement seat;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.

When this bright world would tempt me sore,
When Satan would a victory score;
When self would seek to have its way,
Then help me Lord with joy to say;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, yes only one,
Now let me say, "Thy will be done";
And when at last I'll hear the call,
I know I'll say "twas worth it all";
Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last. "

Only one life, the still small voice,
Gently pleads for a better choice
Bidding me selfish aims to leave,
And to God's holy will to cleave;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.

Give me Father, a purpose deep,
In joy or sorrow Thy word to keep;
Faithful and true what e'er the strife,
Pleasing Thee in my daily life;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.

— Poem by C.T. Studd, missionary pioneer to China, India and Africa

Reflection and Application Questions (for personal reflection and family conversation):

1. What does John mean by "Do not love the world"? What is the world? The things in the world?
2. What is a believer called to love? Is there room for enjoyment in a believer's life in this world?
3. How can you cultivate a love for God and for that which lasts forever?