

w/b 30th April 2017 THEME: LOVE NOT THE WORLD

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY: To help us understand we are in a war where we can easily be lured over to the enemy's side and neutralised.

PASSAGE: 1 John 2 vs 15-17

As the scripture is only a few verses long, it's worth reading in a number of translations

On Not Loving the World

¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶ For everything in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

1 John 2:15-17 The Message (MSG)

¹⁵⁻¹⁷ Don't love the world's ways. Don't love the world's goods. Love of the world squeezes out love for the Father. Practically everything that goes on in the world - wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important - has nothing to do with the Father. It just isolates you from him. The world and all its wanting, wanting, wanting is on the way out - but whoever does what God wants is set for eternity.

John 2:15-17 J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS)

See "the world" for what it is

¹⁵⁻¹⁷ Never give your hearts to this world or to any of the things in it. A man cannot love the Father and love the world at the same time. For the whole world-system, based as it is on men's primitive desires, their greedy ambitions and the glamour of all that they think splendid, is not derived from the Father at all, but from the world itself. The world and all its passionate desires will one day disappear. But the man who is following God's will is part of the permanent and cannot die.

LAUNCH

- Get each member of the group to select a person from history, literature or film who was 'worldly' as best as the term can be understood (avoid biblical characters and definitely avoid people personally known to you).
Get the group to decide on who was the winner

DISCOVERY

- As you read these 3 translations which one speaks the clearest to you and why?
- Also read James 4:1-6 and Matthew 6:24

UNDERSTANDING

- Why is John so stark in drawing such a clear line between the kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness?
- What are the key pitfalls of getting embroiled in the world as John sees them?
- Have you ever allowed worldly distractions to come in at the expense of your relationship with the father? If you are able, share with the group.
- 'the lust of the flesh', 'the lust of the eyes' and 'the pride of life'.
What is your best understanding of what each of these 3 phrases means?
- One commentator has interestingly suggested that the 'lust of the flesh' afflicts the young more often, 'the lust of the eye' the middle aged and 'the pride of life' the older generation. Why do they suggest this and do you agree?
- 'the church seems to fight strongly against immorality whilst ignoring materialism and pride'. Do you agree or disagree?
- The lust of the eye can also suggest a lust for power. What is the difference between worldly Satanic power and Godly authority?
- For the Christian compromise with the world is dull, repetitive and enslaving. Do you agree and if true why?
- The opposite of living in the world is living by the Spirit. Share examples of how the Spirit has led you in the last couple of weeks and why this was fulfilling joyful and rewarding

APPLICATION

- What are the greatest dangers from the world for you personally right now that are in danger of pulling you away from God? Please note that these could be clearly dangerous or on the face of it seem quite innocuous: eg Facebook, Ebay, Netflix or following your favourite football club.
- How can you tell whether the more innocuous things are a legitimate form of relaxation or are in the process of dragging you into the world?
- Pray for one another to have the self-discipline to limit the influence of these things or even knock them on the head completely where necessary
- Pray for more opportunities to be led by the Spirit in exciting and new ways