

Worldliness

January 29, 2006

(Proverbs 14:12; Jeremiah 10:23)

Introduction:

The world we live in is comprised of people of different faiths, hopes, desires, and goals. There are people who are kind, emotional, opinionated, passive, conscientious, and some are violent. Many have a set of morals that preclude them from certain unlawful civil acts and others have no morals. Some live in fear and other live with no fear. Though the world is comprised of all such people the Christian is one that is commanded not to be a part of the world. Truth is the governing body of laws that sets the Christian apart from those of the world. This lesson shall identify the world and examine the effects of the world we live in relation to truth.

I. The World

- A. Paul's instruction to the Corinthians, regarding how to handle a disorderly member of the church, reveals a Bible fact about the world (I Cor. 5:9-11). Though this world is comprised of both believers and nonbelievers Christians are instructed not to be "of the world" (I Jn. 2:15).
- B. The Bible speaks of the world as both the mass of humanity (Jn. 3:16) and a specified mindset of the spiritually dead (I Jn. 5:19).
- C. The mass of individuals comprising the spiritually dead (the world) are governed by Satan (II Cor. 4:4). The devil is sometimes referred to as the prince of this world (Jn. 12:31; 16:11).
- D. The world of the spiritually dead is characterized by:
 - 1. People who care for spiritually unlawful things of the "flesh" (Rom. 8:5-7).
 - 2. Faulty religious doctrines (I Cor. 2:6; Col. 2:8; I Tim. 4:1).
 - 3. Those corrupted with sensual lusts (II Pet. 1:4).
 - 4. The realm of those who are spiritually defiled (II Pet. 2:20).
 - 5. The realm of those who prove their hatred for Jesus and His disciples by their words and actions (Jn. 7:7; 15:18-19; 17:14; I Jn. 3:13).

II. Objectives of the world as opposed to the Christian's goals:

- A. Those of the world mind the things of the flesh (Rom. 1:24-32; I Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 5:19-21; Phil. 3:18-19; I Tim. 6:3-10; I Jn. 2:16).
- B. Christians have no emotional ties to the world (Phil. 4:11-13).
- C. The Christian's objective (goal or prize) is to make it to heaven (Phil. 3:13-14, 20-21).

III. Bible Examples:

- A. Christ our Example (Gal. 3:27; Col. 3:12-17).
- B. The apostles our examples (Phil. 4:8-9).
- C. Other faithful Christians serve as an example (Phil. 3:17).

Conclusion:

The Christian lives in the world but is not of the world. The Christian is in the flesh but is not of the flesh. There are things of this world that at times peek our interests. Movies, songs, events, jokes, and people that ought to cause us distress are often examined and enjoyed by Christians. No doubt many things that the world has to offer are entertaining yet unlawful in the eyes of God. The Christian is to thereby crucify his or her fleshly desires (Gal. 2:20; 5:24; 6:14). This world is not my home, I'm just passing through!