

**TRINITY BIBLE CHURCH  
HATE THE WORLD  
1 JOHN 2:15-17  
April 28, 2013  
Rev. Roy Herman**

**AS CHILDREN GROWING UP, MANY OF US, IF NOT MOST OF US, WERE TAUGHT THAT THE WORD "HATE" WAS A BAD WORD AND SHOULD NOT TO BE USED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE. WE WERE TOLD NOT TO "HATE" ANYTHING OR ANYBODY — FOR ANY REASON. AS PARENTS, WE WERE FEARFUL OF THE DAY THAT WHEN WE WOULD NOT LET OUR CHILDREN DO WHAT WE KNEW TO BE HARMFUL TO THEM AND WE SAID "NO", AND THEY WOULD THROW A FIT AND YELL, "I HATE YOU." THAT HURT, DIDN'T IT? IT'S TRUE; THE WORD "HATE" MANIFESTS A STRONG NEGATIVE EMOTION.**

**NOT GROWING UP IN A CHRISTIAN HOME, I CANNOT SAY FOR SURE, BUT I WOULD SUSPECT THAT CHILDREN WERE TOLD THAT IT IS A SIN TO HATE. BUT IN BIBLICAL REALITY, IT IS NOT! IT IS NOT "THAT" WE HATE THAT IS SINFUL; IT IS THE "OBJECT" OF ONE'S HATRED THAT DETERMINES WHETHER OR NOT WE ARE VIOLATING GOD'S COMMANDS.**

**WITH CERTAINTY, GOD IS LOVE AND LOVES, PERFECTLY. BUT GOD ALSO HATES. AND HE HATES, PERFECTLY, AS WELL.**

**PROVERBS 6:16-19 REVEAL TO US PRECISELY WHAT GOD HATES. IT SAYS; "THERE ARE SIX THINGS THE LORD HATES, SEVEN THAT ARE DETESTABLE TO HIM: HAUGHTY EYES, A LYING TONGUE, HANDS THAT SHED INNOCENT BLOOD, A HEART THAT DEVISES WICKED SCHEMES, FEET THAT ARE QUICK TO RUSH INTO EVIL, A FALSE WITNESS WHO POURS OUT LIES AND A MAN WHO STIRS UP DISSENSION AMONG BROTHERS."**

**ISAIAH WRITES IN CHAPTER 61 AND VERSE 8; "FOR I, THE LORD, LOVE JUSTICE; I HATE ROBBERY AND INIQUITY."**

**AND ZECHARIAH SAYS IN 8:16-17, "THESE ARE THE THINGS YOU ARE TO DO: SPEAK THE TRUTH TO EACH OTHER, AND RENDER TRUE AND SOUND JUDGMENT IN YOUR COURTS; DO NOT PLOT EVIL AGAINST YOUR NEIGHBOR, AND DO NOT LOVE TO SWEAR FALSELY. I HATE ALL THIS," DECLARES THE LORD."**

**YOU SEE THAT GOD IS SO ADAMANT ABOUT WHAT HE HATES, HE EVEN COMMANDS US TO HATE, TOO. PSALM 97:10 SAYS; "LET THOSE WHO LOVE THE LORD HATE EVIL, FOR HE GUARDS THE LIVES OF HIS FAITHFUL ONES AND DELIVERS THEM FROM THE HAND OF THE WICKED." AND PAUL TELLS IS IN ROMANS 12:9 THAT "LOVE MUST BE SINCERE. HATE WHAT IS EVIL; CLING TO WHAT IS GOOD."**

**AND WHEN WE HATE RIGHTEOUSLY, WE ARE REWARDED. THE WRITER OF HEBREWS REVEALS TO US IN CHAPTER 1 AND VERSE 9 THAT; "YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED WICKEDNESS; THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, HAS SET YOU ABOVE YOUR COMPANIONS BY ANOINTING YOU WITH THE OIL OF JOY."**

**SO NOW WE KNOW THAT "HATE", UNTO ITSELF, IS NOT SINFUL! THE QUESTION IS THEN, "WHAT SPECIFICALLY DOES GOD PERMIT AND WANTS US TO HATE?" AND THAT BRINGS US TO OUR PASSAGES FOR TODAY, FROM 1 JOHN 2, VERSES 15 THROUGH 17:**

**“DO NOT LOVE THE WORLD OR ANYTHING IN THE WORLD. IF ANYONE LOVES THE WORLD, THE LOVE OF THE FATHER IS NOT IN HIM.” “FOR EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD —THE CRAVINGS OF SINFUL MAN, THE LUST OF HIS EYES AND THE BOASTING OF WHAT HE HAS AND DOES--COMES NOT FROM THE FATHER BUT FROM THE WORLD.”**

**“THE WORLD AND ITS DESIRES PASS AWAY, BUT THE MAN WHO DOES THE WILL OF GOD LIVES FOREVER.”**

**WE WILL BEGIN UNPACKING THESE POWERFUL VERSES WITH VERSE 15. JOHN SAYS:**

**“DO NOT LOVE THE WORLD OR ANYTHING IN THE WORLD. IF ANYONE LOVES THE WORLD, THE LOVE OF THE FATHER IS NOT IN HIM.”**

**WHEN JOHN SPEAKS OF THE WORLD, HE IS NOT REFERRING TO THE PHYSICAL WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE AND EXIST. HE IS NOT SAYING THAT WE ARE NOT TO LOVE THE PLANET EARTH OR THAT WHICH LIVES ON THE PLANET. BE MINDFUL THAT AFTER GOD COMPLETED CREATING THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH, SCRIPTURE TELLS US IN GENESIS 1:31 THAT “GOD SAW ALL THAT HE HAD MADE, AND IT WAS VERY GOOD.”**

**SO WHAT MIGHT JOHN BE TALKING ABOUT WHEN HE SAYS, “DO NOT LOVE THE WORLD OR ANYTHING IN THE WORLD?”**

**I WOULD SUGGEST TO YOU THAT HE IS REFERRING TO THE WORLD’S “SYSTEMS” OR “ECONOMIES” — THOSE “SPHERES OF INFLUENCE” THAT WERE AND ARE UGLY AND DESPICABLE. THOSE WHICH LED AND LEAD TO CORRUPTION OF THE SOUL. THIS APPLIED TO CONDITIONS IN HIS TIME AND SURELY, TODAY, IN OUR TIME! WE ARE ALL FAMILIAR WITH THESE CORRUPT WORLD SYSTEMS — THE “WONDERFUL WORLD OF SPORTS”, WHICH IS MOSTLY NOT SO WONDERFUL, THE “FINANCIAL WORLD”, THE “WORLD OF POLITICS”, THE “ENTERTAINMENT WORLD” AND SOMETIMES, THE “RELIGIOUS WORLD” IN TERMS OF TELE-EVANGELISTS AND FALSE TEACHING!**

**EACH OF THESE “WORLDS” HAS SUCCUMBED TO THE DEMONIC FORCES OF POWER, CONTROL, GREED, IDOL WORSHIP, SEXUAL IMPURITY AND MANY OTHER SINFUL ACTS.**

**WHEN I WAS YOUNG, PROFESSIONAL ATHLETICS WAS A “SPORT”! MEN AND WOMAN PLAYED FOR THE JOY OF THE GAME AND MANY PLAYERS SERVED AS GOOD ROLE-MODELS FOR US. BUT TODAY, IT IS NO LONGER A “SPORT”, IT IS SIMPLY A BUSINESS, PAYING INCREDIBLE SALARIES TO ATTRACT PLAYERS WHO CAN FURTHER THE OWNERS PROFITS.**

**AND THEN, OF COURSE, PASSING THE COST ON TO THE PUBLIC. DO YOU REALIZE THAT AN AFTERNOON AT A BASEBALL GAME, INCLUDING DINNER, USED TO COST ABOUT \$25 BUCKS FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR? NOW, WITH \$20 OR \$30 PARKING AND \$5 OR \$6 HOTDOGS, THE COST IS NINE OR TEN TIMES WHAT IT USED TO BE.**

**BUT IT’S NOT ONLY THE COST; IT’S THE CORRUPTION OF VALUES THAT HAS PERMEATED THIS “WORLD”. THE PLAYERS ARE NO LONGER ROLE-MODELS! IN FACT, SO MANY OF THEM ARE CONVICTED CRIMINALS, GUILTY OF RAPE, DRUG USE, VIOLENCE AND MORE.**

**REMEMBER MICHAEL VICK, WHO WAS CONVICTED OF PROMOTING DOG FIGHTING, SPENT TIME IN JAIL AND THEN RETURNED TO FOOTBALL AMONGST CHEERS AND SHOUTS FROM THOSE THAT WORSHIPED HIM AS A FOOTBALL PLAYER. THEY TREATED HIM AS IF HE WAS A CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT, A NATIONAL HERO, RETURNING FROM SEVERAL TOURS IN IRAQ OR AFGHANISTAN. THAT IS SO SAD ISN'T IT?**

**AND LOOK AT THE "WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT"! MANY MOVIES ARE VIOLENT, CONTAIN NUDITY AND FOUL LANGUAGE AND SEEM TO PROMOTE THE IDEA THAT "IF IT FEELS GOOD, DO IT" AND THAT "TRUTH IS WHAT YOU WANT IT TO BE!" MOVIES THAT USED BE BANNED OR RATED XXX ARE NOW MARKED AS PG-13. TODAY'S CHILDREN ARE NOT ONLY ALLOWED TO VIEW FILMS THAT PROMOTE DRUG USE, FORNICATION HOMOSEXUALITY, VIOLENCE AND THE UTTER DISREGARD FOR WHAT IS MORALLY RIGHT, THEY ARE ENTICED TO THEM!**

**AND I RECENTLY HEARD THAT THE TOP 3 SONGS, NOMINATED FOR A PRESTIGIOUS MUSIC AWARD, ALL CONTAIN ABSOLUTELY VULGAR LANGUAGE AND IN ONE OF THEM, THE WORDS SPEAK OF A MAN WHO THREATENS TO DISMEMBER HIS GIRL FRIEND SIMPLY BECAUSE SHE DID NOT WANT TO GO OUT THAT NIGHT.**

**IT IS UNBELIEVABLE WHAT WE ARE EXPOSING OUR CHILDREN TO THESE DAYS.**

**AND THE "FINANCIAL WORLD" — REMEMBER BERNIE MADOFF, WHO "MADOFF" WITH MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF HIS INVESTORS MONEY? YES, MADOFF IS A CROOK, BUT REALIZE THAT THOSE WHO INVESTED WITH HIM DID SO BECAUSE OF THEIR GREED! THEY FELL FOR THE PROMISE OF AN EXORBITANT AND QUICK RETURN ON THEIR INVESTMENT. SURE, THEY LOST A LOT OF MONEY, BUT MANY HAD THE MONEY TO LOSE. THEIR GREED CLOUDED THEIR PERHAPS OTHERWISE GOOD JUDGMENT. THEY WERE LOOKING FOR THE "FAST BUCK", MUCH LIKE THOSE WHO FREQUENT THE CASINOS AND INCESSANTLY BUY LOTTO TICKETS, HOPING TO "HIT IT BIG".**

**WHAT IS REALLY SAD IS THAT MADOFF'S SON COMMITTED SUICIDE NOT LONG AGO. IT WAS SAID THAT HE COULD NO LONGER LIVE WITH THE THOUGHT OF WHAT HIS FATHER HAD DONE.**

**REGARDING THE "POLITICAL WORLD", WHERE "ABSOLUTE POWER CORRUPTS, ABSOLUTELY", NOT MUCH NEEDS TO BE SAID. IT SEEMS THAT MORAL INTEGRITY IS NO LONGER A MEASURE OF A CANDIDATE'S QUALIFICATION FOR OFFICE. ALL OF YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON AND THAT IT IS VERY CLEAR THAT GREEDY, SELFISH, POWER-HUNGRY POLITICIANS ARE PASSING LAWS THAT ARE CONTRARY TO THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE AND VIOLATE THE SPIRIT OF THE CONSTITUTION AND OF OUR FOUNDING FATHERS, ALL FOR THEIR OWN SELF-INTERESTS.**

**AND, AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, WE SUMMER IN ILLINOIS, WHERE WE NOW HAVE TWO EX-GOVERNORS SERVING TIME IN PRISON WHERE IT IS SAID, "ILLINOIS, WHERE OUR GOVERNORS MAKE OUR LICENSE PLATES".**

**REGARDING THE "RELIGIOUS WORLD": BROTHERS AND SISTERS, YOU KNOW THAT THE BIBLE SPEAKS VOLUMES ABOUT FALSE TEACHERS, THOSE WHO LEAD THE FLOCK ASTRAY — THOSE WHO CORRUPT THE MINDS AND HEARTS OF THE HEARERS.**

**IT WAS TRUE THEN — AND BECAUSE OF MASS MEDIA, EVEN MORE SO TODAY!**

**CONSIDER THE PROSPARITY MOVEMENT PREACHERS WHO TOUT THAT THERE IS A DIRECT CORROLATION BETWEEN PHYSICAL WEALTH AND HEALTH AND SPRITUAL HEALTH! THEY CLAIM THAT IF ONE IS NOT RICH, THEY LACK FAITH!**

**TO COMPOUND THE UTTER SINFULNESS OF THEIR ACTION, THEY, THE PREACHER, THEN INSTRUCT THEM THAT THEIR FAITH CAN BE RESTORED THROUGH CONTRIBUTIONS TO THEIR MINISTRY — AND THE MORE THEY GIVE, THE MORE FAITH AND MONEY THEY WILL RECEIVE AS A REWARD FROM GOD.**

**BUT YOU SEE, WHEN THEY DO NOT ACHIEVE THE WEALTH AND HEALTH THAT WAS PROMISED TO THEM BY THESE FALSE TEACHINGS, THEY OFTEN BLAME IT ON GOD AND THEIR CHRISTIAN LIFE AND WITNESS IS DESTROYED. IN REALITY, THESE TEACHERS ARE AN INSTRUMENT OF SATAN, WHOSE PLAN IS TO CAUSE THE DOWNFALL OF GOD’S PEOPLE.**

**IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THESE SUPER-CHARGED TELE-EVANGELISTS PREY ON THE DOWN-TROTTEN AND HOPELESS TO FUEL THEIR OWN GREED AND DEPRAVITY. THEY USE THE PARALLELISM BETWEEN WEALTH AND FAITH SIMPLY TO JUSTIFY THEIR OWN ULTRA-LAVISH, EXCESSIVE LIFESTYLES.**

**I RECENTLY HEARD THAT AN ATTORNEY FOR ONE OF THESE MINISTRIES, WHICH IS UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR MISAPPROPRIATION OF FUNDS, WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT “THE CONTRIBUTORS HAVE NO LEGAL RIGHT TO KNOW HOW THEIR MONEY WAS BEING SPENT.”**

**BACK TO OUR VERSES!**

**WHEN JOHN COMMANDS US TO NOT LOVE THESE THINGS, HE IS ESSENTIALLY INSTRUCTING US TO HATE THESE THINGS, JUST AS GOD HATES THE THINGS OF THE “WORLD”.**

**REALIZE, PLEASE, THAT “LOVE” AND “HATE” ARE MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE — THEY CANNOT COEXIST! MATTHEW, IN 6:24, WRITES THAT "NO ONE CAN SERVE TWO MASTERS. EITHER HE WILL HATE THE ONE AND LOVE THE OTHER, OR HE WILL BE DEVOTED TO THE ONE AND DESPISE THE OTHER. YOU CANNOT SERVE BOTH GOD AND MONEY.”**

**WHEN GOD SAYS THAT WE ARE TO “HATE” THESE THINGS, HE TELLING US THAT WE MUST NOT SUPPORT THESE ACTIVITIES EITHER BY PARTICIPATION OR FINANCIALLY.**

**WE MUST LET OUR ACTIONS SHOW WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE RIGHT IN THE EYES OF OUR LORD. WE MUST DO RIGHT AND VOTE RIGHT, IF WE ARE EVER TO REVERSE THIS TREND OF UNGODLY MORAL DECAY.**

**SO, IF WE ARE “NOT TO LOVE THE WORLD OR ANYTHING IN THE WORLD”, WHAT ARE WE TO LOVE?**

**LUKE’S MESSAGE TO US, IN CHAPTER 10 AND VERSE 27, CANNOT BE CLEARER! “LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND AND LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” AND KEEP IN MIND THAT “LOVE MUST BE SINCERE. HATE WHAT IS EVIL; CLING TO WHAT IS GOOD.”**

**JOHN CONTINUES IN VERSE 15, SAYING; “IF ANYONE LOVES THE WORLD, THE LOVE OF THE FATHER IS NOT IN HIM.”**

**IN OTHER WORDS, THE REASON JOHN SAYS THAT WE SHOULDN'T LOVE THE WORLD IS THAT WE CANNOT LOVE THE WORLD AND GOD AT THE SAME TIME.**

**LOVE FOR THE WORLD PUSHES OUT LOVE FOR GOD, AND LOVE FOR GOD PUSHES OUT LOVE FOR THE WORLD. IT IS EITHER ONE OR THE OTHER, NOT BOTH! IT'S LIKE BEING PREGNANT, EITHER YOU ARE OR YOUR NOT — THERE IS NO IN BETWEEN — ONE CANNOT BE "A LITTLE BIT PREGNANT"!**

**REMEMBER AGAIN THAT JESUS SAID THAT "NO ONE CAN SERVE TWO MASTERS; FOR EITHER HE WILL HATE THE ONE AND LOVE THE OTHER, OR HE WILL BE DEVOTED TO THE ONE AND DESPISE THE OTHER. YOU CANNOT SERVE GOD AND MONEY".**

**WE, THEREFORE, MUST NOT LOVE THE WORLD, BECAUSE THAT WOULD PUT US IN THE CLASS WITH THE GOD-HATERS WHETHER WE THINK WE ARE OR NOT.**

**THE PHRASE, "THE LOVE OF THE FATHER IS NOT IN HIM", ALSO SPEAKS OF WHAT JOHN RELATES IN HIS GOSPEL IN CHAPTER 5 AND VERSES 5 AND 6; "I AM THE VINE; YOU ARE THE BRANCHES. IF A MAN REMAINS IN ME AND I IN HIM, HE WILL BEAR MUCH FRUIT; APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING. IF ANYONE DOES NOT REMAIN IN ME, HE IS LIKE A BRANCH THAT IS THROWN AWAY AND WITHERS; SUCH BRANCHES ARE PICKED UP, THROWN INTO THE FIRE AND BURNED."**

**JOHN CONTINUES IN VERSES 9 AND 10 AND SAYS, "AS THE FATHER HAS LOVED ME, SO HAVE I LOVED YOU. NOW REMAIN IN MY LOVE. IF YOU OBEY MY COMMANDS, YOU WILL REMAIN IN MY LOVE, JUST AS I HAVE OBEYED MY FATHER'S COMMANDS AND REMAIN IN HIS LOVE."**

**JOHN IS TEACHING ABOUT ABIDING LOVE — LOVE THAT EXISTS SIMULTANEOUSLY IN BOTH GOD AND US. WITH THIS IN MIND, IT IS NOT DIFFICULT TO SEE THAT IF OUR LOVE IS DIRECTED AT THE WORLD, WE ARE NOT ABIDING IN HIM, OR HE IN US.**

**JAMES GOES EVEN FURTHER IN CHAPTER 4 AND VERSE 4; STATING THAT "FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD IS HATRED TOWARD GOD! ANYONE WHO CHOOSES TO BE A FRIEND OF THE WORLD BECOMES AN ENEMY OF GOD."**

**PEOPLE, WE HAVE A CHOICE! WE CAN EITHER LOVE THE WORLD AND BE AT ENMITY WITH GOD OR WE CAN LOVE GOD AND HAVE FRIENDSHIP WITH HIM!**

**OH HOW I PRAY THAT EACH OF US HERE TONIGHT HAVE CHOSEN THE GODLY ALTERNATIVE! NOT JUST DENYING WORDLINESS, BUT LETTING THE LOVE OF OUR FATHER GROW IN US, CARING MORE AND MORE THAT HE LOVES US AND WANTS TO BE INTIMATE WITH US. AND THAT HE'S AVAILABLE TO US AND WILL LOVE US IN RETURN. FOR EVERY INDICATION OF LOVE THAT WE GIVE HIM, WE GET AN INFINITE RESPONSE BACK FROM HIM. IT'S A MARVELOUS WAY TO LIVE, ISN'T IT?**

**AND OH HOW I PRAY THAT WE CHOOSE TO EXPERIENCE THE LOVE OF GOD, THE CHALLENGE, THE THRILL, THE LAUGHTER, THE JOY AND THE ADVENTURE OF REMAINING IN HIM AND HE IN US. AND THAT EACH DAY WE FALL MORE AND MORE IN LOVE WITH THE ONE WHOM WE OUGHT TO LOVE. AMEN?**

**JOHN NOW FOCUSES HIS ATTENTION ON THREE DEVICES THAT THE "WORLD" USES TO SEDUCE US — TO RENDER OUR WITNESS AND TESTIMONY INEFFECTIVE.**

**HE WRITES: “FOR EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD--THE CRAVINGS OF SINFUL MAN, THE LUST OF HIS EYES AND THE BOASTING OF WHAT HE HAS AND DOES--COMES NOT FROM THE FATHER BUT FROM THE WORLD.”**

**THE FIRST IS “THE CRAVINGS OF SINFUL MAN”, OR WHAT OLDER TRANSLATIONS CALL “THE LUST OF THE FLESH.” THE SECOND IS “THE LUST OF THE EYES”, AND THE THIRD IS “BOASTFULNESS AND PRIDE IN WHAT YOU ARE AND DO”.**

**LET’S LOOK A CLOSER AT THESE AVENUES OF SEDUCTION!**

**THE “THE CRAVINGS OF SINFUL MAN”, REFERS TO THE BASIC URGES THAT HAVE BEEN BUILT INTO OUR BIOLOGY. THEY ARE NEUTRAL IN AND OF THEMSELVES, BUT THEY OFFER THE WAY FOR US TO SERVE OURSELVES RATHER THAN GOD. IN OTHER WORDS, TO FEED AND SATISFY OUR SINFUL NATURE.**

**THE DESIRE FOR SEX, AGAIN NEUTRAL AND GOD-GIVEN, CAN LEAD TO PROMISCUITY. THE HUNGER FOR FOOD CAN BECOME GLUTTONY. ARE WE OFFERING THESE DESIRES AND APPETITES TO THE LORD SO THEY CAN BE CHanneled IN PROPER WAYS OR TO THE WORLD, WHERE THEY BECOME ARENAS FOR SELFISHNESS?**

**THE SECOND DEVICE JOHN SPEAKS OF IS “THE LUST OF THE EYES” — COVETOUSNESS! THE “WORLD” USES MARKETING, IN THE FORM OF TV AND RADIO ADS, NEWSPRINT AND THE INTERNET TO ENTICE US INTO THEIR “WORLD” OF FANTASY, TANTALIZATION, ILLUSION AND APPEARANCE---MENTALLY PLAYING WITH THINGS WE DESIRE.**

**PEOPLE WHO ARE ENSLAVED BY PORNOGRAPHY ARE THOSE IN WHOM THE “LUST OF THE EYES” HAS TAKEN ROOT. BUT THERE ARE OTHER WAYS, TOO.**

**WE’VE ALL HEARD OR HAVE SEEN ADS THAT SAY, “BE THE FIRST ON YOUR BLOCK TO HAVE THIS OR THAT”. OR “ARE YOU TIRED OF THAT OLD FURNITURE OR APPLIANCE, THEN BUY THIS OR THAT”. AND SO ON! THE ADVERTISING INDUSTRY PROMOTES SELF-IMAGE BASED ON APPEARANCE.**

**THE WORD IMAGE ITSELF REFERS TO SOMETHING THAT IS NOT REALITY BUT ONLY APPEARANCE. THIS IS WHAT JOHN HAS IN MIND WHEN HE TALKS ABOUT “THE LUST OF THE EYES.”**

**THE THIRD THING JOHN HIGHLIGHTS HERE IS WHAT HE CALLS “THE BOASTFUL PRIDE OF LIFE” OR THE BOASTING OF WHAT ONE HAS AND DOES.**

**IT IS TO MEASURE YOURSELF ON THE BASIS OF ACCOMPLISHMENT AND TO REDEFINE THE TERMS SO THAT YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE SUPERIOR TO ANOTHER’S. IT IS A COMPELLING NEED TO COME OUT ON TOP; TO WIN!**

**WE OFTEN SEE THIS EXEMPLIFIED IN THE SO-CALLED “DO IT YOURSELF HELP BOOKS”. I AM REFERRING TO BOOKS SUCH AS “10 SIMPLE WAYS TO RELIEVE ANXIETY, FEAR & WORRY” — BOOKS THAT SAY THAT YOU CAN DO IT ALL BY YOURSELF.**

**IN ESSENCE, THEY SAYING THAT YOU DON’T NEED GOD IN YOUR LIFE, ALL YOU NEED IS “SELF”. THIS IS THE DESTRUCTIVE POWER OF PRIDE THAT IS PROMOTED BY THE “WORLD”.**

**IN FACT THE ONLY "SELF HELP" BOOK THAT HAS ANY REAL VALUE IS THE BIBLE! IT IS FILLED WITH WAYS TO HELP YOURSELF, BUT IF AND ONLY IF, YOU GIVE YOURSELF OVER TO THE LORD. AMEN?**

**AND, I MIGHT ADD, THIS INCLUDES "SELF-HELP" SERMON MESSAGES THAT MAY BE UPLIFTING TO THE HEARER, TASTING GOOD, BUT HAS LITTLE, IF ANY, SUBSTANCE AND KINGDOM VALUE.**

**SO "THE LUST OF THE FLESH, THE LUST OF THE EYES, AND THE PRIDE OF LIFE" ARE ALL SEDUCTIONS OF THE "WORLD" ACCORDING TO JOHN. ALL OF THEM CAUSE US TO LOVE SOMETHING ELSE INSTEAD OF LOVING OUR FATHER. AND REMEMBER VERSE 15, WHERE JOHN EXHORTS "THAT IF ANYONE LOVES THE WORLD, THE LOVE OF THE FATHER IS NOT IN HIM."**

**BROTHERS, ALL OF THESE DEVICES ARE OF THE DEVIL AND DESIGNED TO FORSAKE US OF OUR FIRST LOVE.**

**PAUL EXPRESSES HIS CONCERN FOR THE BELIEVERS IN CORINTH THIS WAY! HE WRITES IN HIS SECOND EPISTLE IN CHAPTER 11 AND VERSE 3; "BUT I AM AFRAID THAT JUST AS EVE WAS DECEIVED BY THE SERPENT'S CUNNING, YOUR MINDS MAY SOMEHOW BE LED ASTRAY FROM YOUR SINCERE AND PURE DEVOTION TO CHRIST."**

**THEN IN VERSE 17, JOHN GIVES US ANOTHER REASON WHY IT IS FUTILE TO "LOVE THE WORLD". HE CONTRASTS WORLDLY REWARDS WITH WHAT ONE RECEIVES FOR LOVING THE FATHER — "THE WORLD AND ITS DESIRES PASS AWAY, BUT THE MAN WHO DOES THE WILL OF GOD LIVES FOREVER." ONE IS TEMPORARY, ONE IS ETERNAL — ONE FADES, GROWS OLD, DISINTEGRATES AND BECOMES NOTHING; WHILE THE OTHER LASTS FOR ETERNITY.**

**NOBODY BUYS STOCK IN A COMPANY THAT IS SURE TO GO BANKRUPT. NOBODY SETS UP HOUSE IN A SINKING SHIP. NO REASONABLE PERSON WOULD LAY UP TREASURE WHERE "MOTH AND RUST DESTROY AND THIEVES BREAK IN AND STEAL", WOULD THEY?**

**THE OPPOSITE OF LOVING THE WORLD IS NOT ONLY LOVING THE FATHER, FROM VERSE 15, BUT ALSO DOING THE WILL OF THE FATHER! AND THAT CONNECTION IS NOT HARD TO UNDERSTAND. JESUS SAID, "IF YOU LOVE ME YOU WILL KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS".**

**AND AS JOHN SAID IN 1 JOHN 5:3, "FOR THIS IS THE LOVE OF GOD, THAT WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS." SO LOVING THE FATHER IN VERSE 15 AND DOING THE WILL OF GOD IN VERSE 17 ARE NOT REALLY SEPARATE THINGS.**

**IF YOU LOVE GOD, YOU WILL LOVE WHAT HE WILLS. IT IS EMPTY TALK TO SAY I LOVE GOD BUT I DON'T LOVE WHAT GOD LOVES. SO JOHN IS SAYING IN VERSE 17, "IF YOU LOVE THE WORLD, YOU WILL PERISH WITH THE WORLD, BUT IF YOU DON'T LOVE THE WORLD, BUT LOVE GOD, YOU WILL DO HIS WILL AND LIVE WITH HIM FOREVER."**

**TO SUMMARIZE THESE THREE VERSES, JOHN GIVES US BUT ONE COMMANDMENT, WITH THREE REASONS FOR OBEYING HIS COMMAND.**

**THE COMMANDMENT IS, "DON'T LOVE THE WORLD OR THE THINGS IN THE WORLD."**

**THE FIRST IS THAT "IF YOU LOVE THE WORLD, YOU DON'T LOVE GOD."**

**THE SECOND REASON IS THAT "IF YOU LOVE THE WORLD, YOU WILL PERISH WITH THE WORLD."**

**AND THE THIRD IS THAT "IF YOU LOVE GOD, INSTEAD OF THE WORLD, YOU WILL LIVE WITH GOD FOREVER."**

**AND MOST OF ALL, REMEMBER THAT "LOVE MUST BE SINCERE. HATE WHAT IS EVIL; CLING TO WHAT IS GOOD." AMEN? LET'S PRAY!**