

THE WORLD PASSES AWAY

Int.

1. Aim: To show how and why the world with its lusts passes away.
2. **1 John 2:15-17**
 - a. The world - all of the evil things of this world
 - b. Passes away - will soon be gone
3. Since this is true it is foolish to waste our life living for the world of sin!
4. Here is John's advice about how we should feel and act about the world!

Discussion

I. LOVE NOT THE WORLD - v. 15 and 16

A. The world or things in the world

1. World is not the material universe of the earth and things in it - not talking about the beauty of nature
2. It is the evil - - all which is opposed to God
3. Jn. 3:16 - the word world there is talking about humans - the ones made in his image - those of us who are lost
4. The things of the world are the specific things which we LOVE!
5. Love not the world - the evil things of this world

B. If any man love the world

1. Double love is impossible - we cannot love God and the world at the same time
2. Matt. 6:24 "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

3. James 4:4 "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."
 - a. Adulterers = unfaithful to God
 - b. Friend of world = enemy of God
 - c. Some who are blinded by sin insist there is no harm in certain worldly matters
 - d. A blind man can not see the sun, but this does not mean it is not there!
 - e. Impossible to probe the heart, but the way a person uses his time, spends his money shows if they are a friend of the world.
 - f. Enemy of God by lending aid and comfort to the enemies - the world
4. Rom. 8:5 "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit."
5. We must live in this world, but we must not love the things of the world
6. John 17:15 "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil."

C. All that is in the world

1. Lust of the Flesh
 - a. Flesh = not skin, muscle and tissue - but the source of evil desires
 - b. These evil desires which begin in the flesh -
 - c. Desires satisfied or fulfilled in a wrong way - distortion of the basic physical desires
 - d. Sin is often - good gone bad !!
 - e. The lusts of the flesh are exhibited in the list of Gal. 5:19-21

2. Lust of the Eyes

- a. Sins which are the result of yielding to temptations which come from sight
- b. Mt. 5:28 - lusting after a woman "But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."
- c. Covetousness - attraction of material wealth
 - (1) Love of money and material things
 - (2) Lk. 12:15 "And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."
 - (3) This leads to greed

3. Pride of Life

- a. "Vainglory of life" - asv
- b. Making material gains a basis for life.
- c. Arrogance or boasting over material gain or possessions in order to impress others and exalt self
- d. Desire for praise or publicity
- e. Continual boasting about things which he does not possess. All his life is spent in an attempt to impress everyone with his non-existent importance!
- f. 1 Tim. 6:17 "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy:"

- g. Matt. 6:19-21 "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

D. The Satan Approach - sneaky - 1 Pet. 5:8

1. Temptation of Eve - Gen. 3:6ff

- a. Tree was good for food - 1. Lust of the flesh
- b. Delight to the eyes - 2. Lust of the eyes
- c. Desired to make one wise - 3. Pride of life

2. Temptation of Jesus - Matt. 4

- a. Command stones be made bread - satisfy hunger -1. Lust of the flesh
- b. Promised all the kingdoms -2. Lust of the eyes
- c. Jump down from temple - get attention -3. Pride of life

3. How to overcome

- a. Eve failed because she believed and obeyed the devil
- b. Jesus overcomes because he did not believe and obey. Instead he quoted the truth about the matter
- c. Ps. 119:11 "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

E. These things of the world are not from the Father but of the world! And we are NOT TO LOVE THEM !

II. IT PASSETH AWAY V. 17 This is one reason why we should not love the world

A. The world passeth away - It is passing by

1. Will be destroyed - II Pet. 3:10-11 - "dissolved" "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11 [Seeing] then [that] all these things shall be dissolved, what manner [of persons] ought ye to be in [all] holy conversation and godliness,"
2. Heb. 1:10-11 = "Perish" "And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: 11 They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment;"

B. The lust passeth away

1. The desire for sin will also pass away
2. Men get tired of sin and go searching for other ways for excitement and enjoyment
3. Heb. 11:25 - pleasures of sin are only for a season "Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;
4. 1 Cor. 7:31 "And they that use this world, as not abusing [it]: for the fashion of this world passeth away."

C. Therefore we ought to give up the world and its lusts

1. When we devote our life to the world we are giving our self to that which has no future.
2. It is the act of a fool to dedicate life to that which will by its nature pass away.
3. "Love not the world"

III. SEEK THINGS ETERNAL

- A. God is permanent
 - 1. Those who abide in his will also are eternal
 - 2. "But he that doeth the will of God abideth forever"
 - a. "Doeth" - not just a knower or hearer - Jas. 1:22-25
 - b. "Abideth forever" - permanent blessings - Jn. 6:40
- B. Col. 3:2 "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."
 - 1. Affection
 - 2. Above - not earthly -

CONCLUSION

- 1. The world will pass away and with it every lustful pleasure
- 2. I Cor. 7:31 "And they that use this world, as not abusing [it]: for the fashion of this world passeth away."
 - a. Like the theater plays which last only a short time and then they are finished
 - b. Nothing about the world is stable
 - c. We call this "life's little day"
- 3. But he who keeps on doing the will of God abides unto the end
- 4. Rev. 2:10 "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast [some] of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."
- 5. 1 John 2:15-17 "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love 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 pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

Bibliography

Gospel Advocate Commentaries - Peter, John and Jude by Guy N. Woods P. 240

The Epistles of John - F.F. Bruce - P. 63

Beacon Bible Commentary - vol. 10 P. 370

The interpretation of Peter John and Jude by R.C.H. Lenski p. 423-425

The interpreter's Bible - Vol. 12

Nelson Chapel Church of Christ, 5039 Six Mile Road Maryville, Tn. 37803

Sunday evening - October 11, 2020 www.nelsonchapelchurchofchrist.org

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - 2705 Druid Hill Dr. Maryville, Tn. 37804

art65ann@gmail.com