**"ESCAPING THE POLLUTIONS OF THIS WORLD"**

**Scripture Reading…..Rom. 12:2*2And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.***

***As we read this scripture several questions come to mind….***

Are we allowing ourselves to become comfortable and conformed to this world?

Are we bogged down by the things and the happenings of the world?

Are we guilty of being attracted and falling into worldly and lustful desires?

Some persons would respond with a resounding and powerful, "No."

Others would answer, "I don't think so" or, "I sure hope not."

Some might ask for the lack of understanding, "What do you mean by worldliness?

With this in mind, we want to first look at several passages which refer to worldliness.

The main purpose and goal here is that we might overcome the world and be more pleasing to God.

In the epistle of ….

**I John 2:15-17*15Love 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.16For 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.17And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.***

**This particular scripture gives us a complete breakdown of what constitutes “worldliness”**

Basically speaking, All sinful things of the world fall under these three

categories.

1. The lust (desire) of the flesh.

 a. God has given certain desires that are good within

 themselves.

 (1) For food -- is good and natural, but gluttony

 is sinful.

***Prov. 23:20-21 20Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh:21For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.***

 (2) **For drink** -- is good and natural, but drunkenness is sinful.

***Prov. 23:29-32 29Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?30They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.31Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.32At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.***

 (3) **For sleep** -- but it too can be abused.

***Prov. 6:10-11 10Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:11So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.***

 (4) **For sexual pleasure** -- it too has it lawful place.

***1 Cor. 7:22Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.***

 (a) This one verse alone condemns the modern homosexual and lesbian marriages.

1. **The lust of the eye** – Always wanting things the eye can see.

 a. Many believe that happiness is found in things money can buy.

 b. The "buy now, pay later" advertising gets millions to buy things beyond

 their means. Yet it gets many into Credit woes and credit troubles!!!

Rom. 13:8 – ***8Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.***

Some persons especially Christians are good at explaining away this passage.

1. **The pride of life** –

Here is where many of God’s people get in trouble with God and others they are always ready and wanting to impress people, wanting to be noticed, and admired by others.

 a. Many put in endless hours at obtaining college degrees? Why?

 b. Many strive to succeed in the business world. They put every waking moment

 into their business. Why?

 c. The pride of life keeps people from serving God as it did in Jesus' time.

***John 5:44 44How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?***

**II. *Luke 8:14 14And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.***

 A. As the thorns choke the good plant, there are things which choke our spiritual lives.

 1. Anxiety and concerned about physical needs is indicative of little faith.

**Matt. 6:30-33*30Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?31Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?32(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.33But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.***

Instead of worry, our lives should be characterized by prayer and interest in spiritual things.

**Phil. 4:6-8*6Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.7And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.8Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.***

 2. The riches of this life choke the spiritual lives of many.

 a. Many have deceived themselves into thinking they

 are serving the right master when they are not.

**Ezek. 33:31*31And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness.***

1. We can easily become a slave to making money if we are not careful.

We want to get ahead. We all want some of the "better" things in life. We all want to Pursue the great old, "American dream."

 (2) But the sad part is that Without noticing it, we become covetous and

 idolaters.

**Col. 3:5 5*Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry.***

1. Beloved, Greed is very, very destructive in the end.

**1 Tim.6:9-109*But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition 10For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.***

 3. Many are choked by the pleasures of this life.

**III.**

***2 Tim. 2:4; 4No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.***

**1 Tim. 5:6; *6But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.***

**Heb. 11:25; *24By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;25Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;***

**2 Tim. 4:*1010For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.***

 A. Beloved there are pleasures that are wrong because God had declared

 them to be wrong.

 1. **Example: 1 Pet. 4:3-4** ***3For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: 4Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:***

-- Licentiousness and lust are at the top of the list here.

***Meaning……Living a reckless,uncaring, even lacking legal or moral restraints; especially : disregarding sexual restraints***

 2. R-rated movies, and even many P.G. movies are

 unfit to watch because they are licentious in nature..

 a. Would you allow your child to go around the

 neighborhood eating food out of garbage cans?

 b. Would you bring garbage cans into you home to eat

 from? There is garbage coming into our homes that

 are more deadly.

 (1) Many persons come to look upon sinful activities as

 the normal way of life.

 B. There are pleasures of life that are not sinful in and of

 themselves.

1. Paul said Demas has forsaken me.

 a. It is doubtful that Demas was involved in any immorality or

 drunkenness.

 b. Rather he loved the things in this present world that

 were not wrong in and of themselves.

 2. Beloved, many are too busy to pray, study, visit the sick, to be

 involved in home classes, to come to all the services.

 a. Some member's religion becomes reduce to no more than

 attending the services, and some can't even do that.

 b. When we get so involved in the things of this world

 that we don't have time to live the Christian life, we

 are loving this world too much.

**IV. James 4:4; *4Ye 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.***

**Phil. 3:19; *19Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)***

**Luke 21:34*34And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.***

 A. The love of the world places us in hostility to God.

 1. Those who love the world will only reap destruction with the world.

***1 John 2:1717And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.***

 B. Their end is definite; it is destruction.

1. The Bible say that we will reap what we sow.

***Gal. 6:7-8 7Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.8For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.***

The main question here is …What kind of life are you sowing??

 2. If we are traveling the pathway of worldliness, we are in

 the way of eternal destruction.

 C. Our minds can be burdened with evil things -- carousing, and

 drunkenness." A wild lifestyle!!!

 D. Also, our minds can be weighed down with the simple cares

 of this life, so much so that it will cause us to be rejected

 when the Lord comes.

Luke 21:34-36

 1. Let us not set our minds on earthly things. This is the

 key to the problem of worldliness.

**V. *Col. 3:2; 2Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.***

***1 Pet. 1:13; 13Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.***

***Rom. 8:5 5For 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.***

 A. We have control over our minds. We determine what we

 think about, good or evil.

 1. Let us choose to occupy our minds with spiritual things.

***Phil. 4:8 8Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.***

1. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly."
2. Let us declare war on needless, worldly thoughts.

 B. Let us take inventory. Do we have our minds too much on

 worldly things?

 1. What is our minds on most of the time? Our jobs?

 School work? Housework? A hobby? A relational

 activity?

 a. Or worse, do we have bitter thoughts toward

 someone?

 b. Are our minds continually on evil things?

 c. Or, are our thoughts where they ought to be -- on

 spiritual things?

 2. This is a private matter between us and God.

 a. Let us occupy our minds with things above.

 b. Let us fill our minds with things which pertain to eternal life.

***Prov. 4:23 23Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.***

 C. This spiritual mind set is the key to overcoming worldliness.

***Rom. 12:2 2And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.***

**Concl.**

 A. Are we guilty of worldliness? Have we been conformed to

 the world rather than being transformed?

 B. Through faith, we can overcome the world. 1 John 5:4

 1. Christ gave Himself for us from this present evil world. Gal.

 1:4

 2. Through God's promises we become partakers of His

 nature and escape the corruption that in the world. 2

 Pet. 1:4

 3. God forbid that we should be entangled again in the

 pollutions of the world.

***2 Pet. 2:2020For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.***

 C. Notice that 2 Pet. 2:20 shows us how to escape the pollutions

 of the world—….it is "through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior

 Jesus Christ."

 1. Through knowledge, we learn how to escape initially,

 and how to continue to escape the pollutions of the

 world.

 2. If you are not a child of God, I pray you have learned what to do to

 escape the pollutions of the world?

 a. If you have, why not obey the gospel today?