

## **John 2:15-17 - The Spiritual Danger of Worldliness**

*2 Eternally Significant Contrasts that Explain Why We Must Not  
Love the World*

### **1. A Contrast of Sources (16)**

“It behooves us, therefore, to approach them carefully lest we misunderstand them, because I believe it is equally true to say that there are perhaps no words which have been so frequently misunderstood and misinterpreted as these. I think the explanation of that is that we all have a tendency to engage in self-defence, and the danger is to approach these words and to interpret them in such a way as to make me all right and probably condemn other people.”<sup>1</sup>

“Worldliness, then, is a love for this fallen world. It’s loving the values and pursuits of the world that stand opposed to God. More specifically, it is to gratify and exalt oneself to the exclusion of God. It rejects God’s rule and replaces it with our own.... It exalts our opinions above God’s truth. It elevates our sinful desires for the things of this fallen world above God’s commands and promises.”<sup>2</sup>

### **2. A Contrast of Ends (17)**

“For a close, I wish...that this...were engraved on the door-posts into which you enter, on the tables where you sit, on the dishes out of which you eat, on the cups out of which you drink, on the bed-steads where you lie, on the walls of the house where you dwell, on the garments which you wear, on the heads of the horses on which you ride, and on the foreheads of all whom you meet—that your souls may not, by the beauty and finery of the world, be kept off from those holy and heavenly services that may render you blessed while you live, and happy when you die; that you may breathe out your last into his bosom who lives forever, and who will make them happy forever— who prefer Christ's spirituals and eternal things above all temporal transitory things.”<sup>3</sup>

John 1:10; 1 John 2:2; 1 John 5:19; 2 Timothy 4:10; James 4:1ff;  
Colossians 3:1ff; Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

<sup>1</sup> Lloyd Jones, <https://www.monergism.com/love-not-world>

<sup>2</sup> Mahaney, C.J. *Worldliness*, p. 27.

<sup>3</sup> Thomas Brooks, *Precious Remedies Against Satan’s Devices*.