

What Is “The World”?

1John 2:15-17

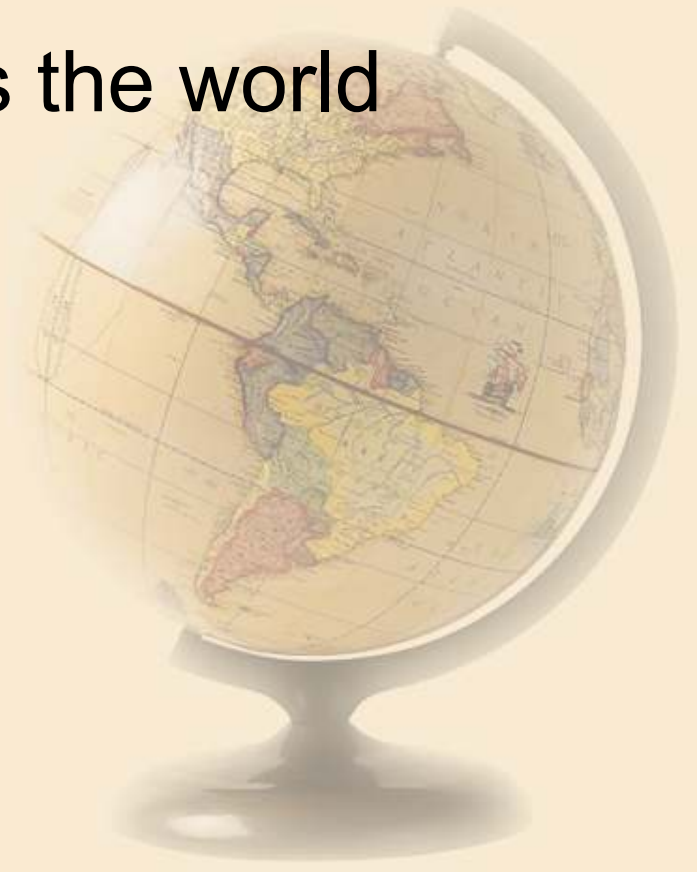


Matt. 16:21-23

- “From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. 22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, ‘Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!’ 23 But He turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.’”

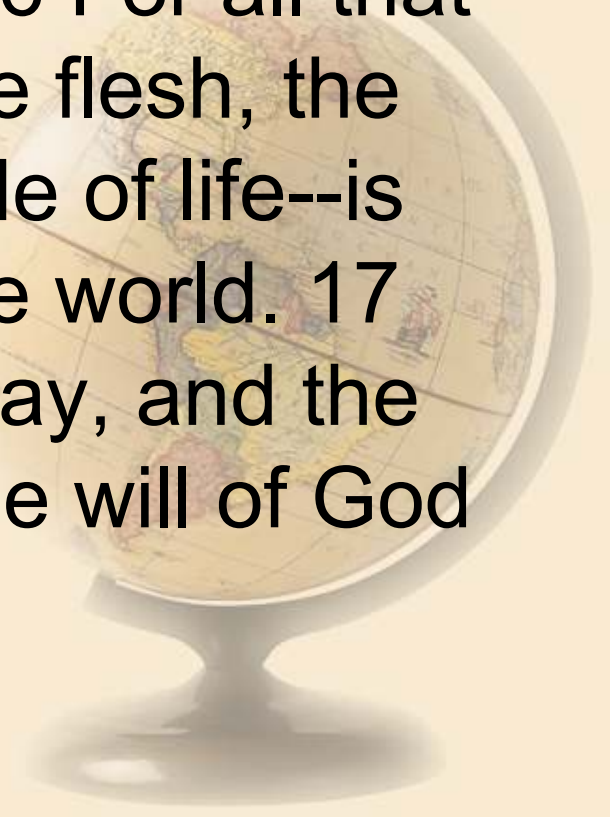
What Are The “Things Of Men”?

- They tend to be physical in nature
- They tend to be carnal in character
- They tend to be the things the world values



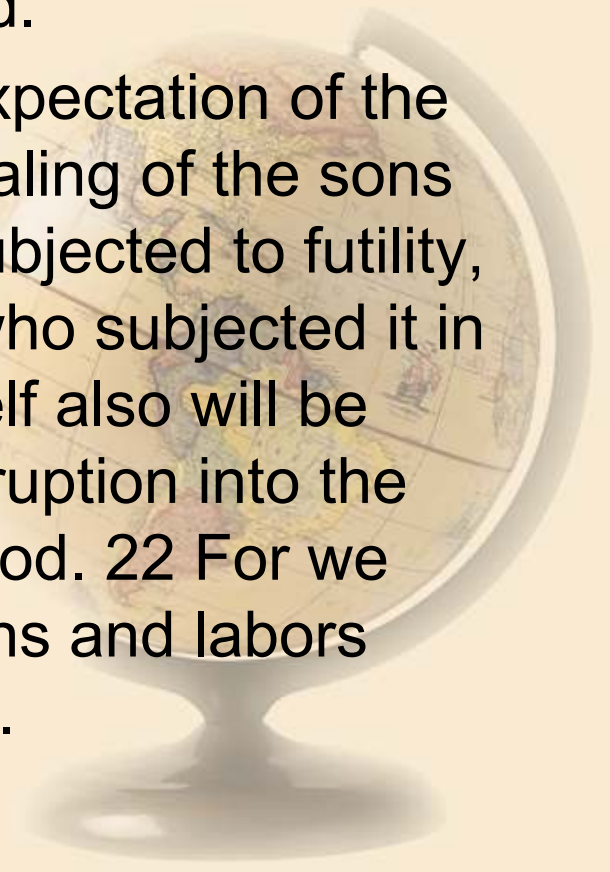
1John 2:15-17

- “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”



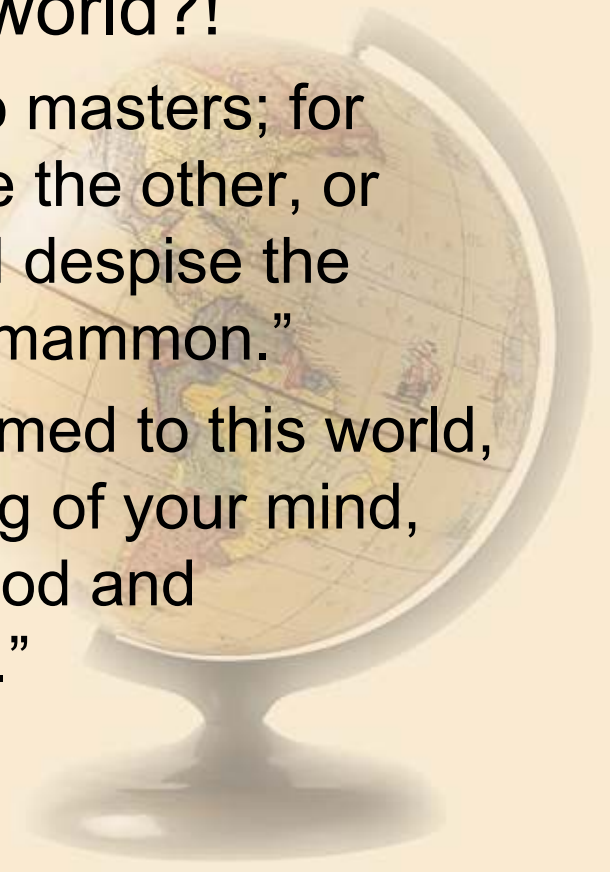
What Does John Mean?

- Is the physical planet inherently evil?
 - Gen. 1:31 - “Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.”
 - Rom. 8:19-22 - “For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.



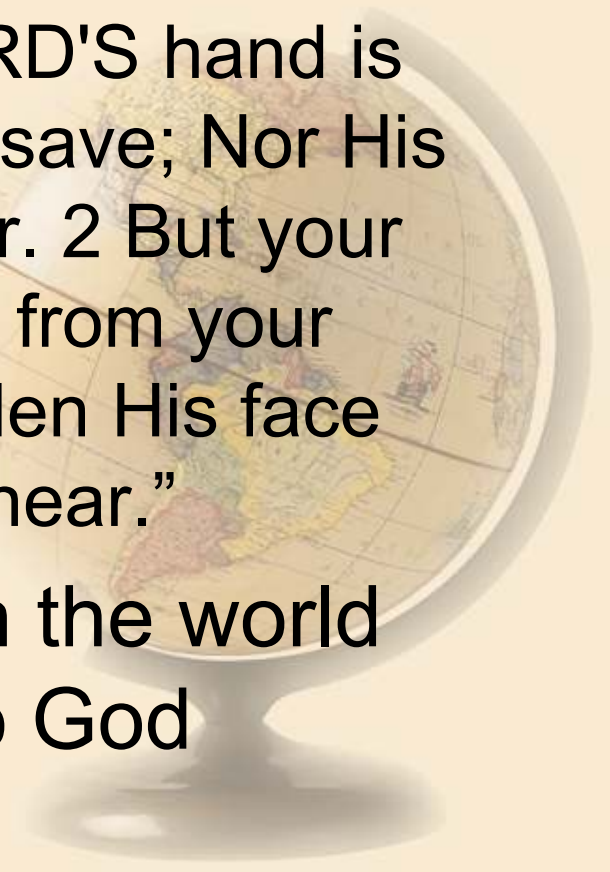
“Do Not Love The World Or The Things In The World”

- Sin causes pain; its consequences have shaped this world of suffering and sorrow. Why would anyone choose the world?!
 - Matt. 6:24 - “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”
 - Rom. 12:2 - “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”



“If Anyone Loves The World, The Love Of The Father Is Not In Him”

- The world represents separation and distance from God
 - Isa. 59:1-2 - “Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.”
- We cannot compromise with the world and expect to be pleasing to God



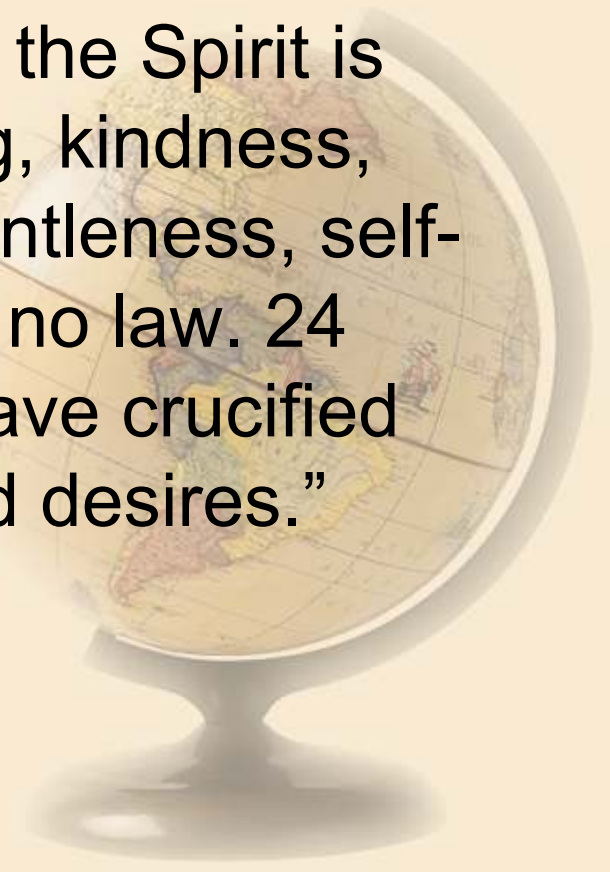
“All That Is In The World, The Desires Of The Flesh”

- Impulses of the flesh: sexually deviant and damaging behavior, uncleanness, idolatry, sorcery, grudges, fits of temper, drunkenness, embarrassing conduct
 - Gal. 5:19-21



“Desires Of The Flesh”

- These are contrary to the spirit of calm self-control that identifies the Christian
 - Gal. 5:22-24 - “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”



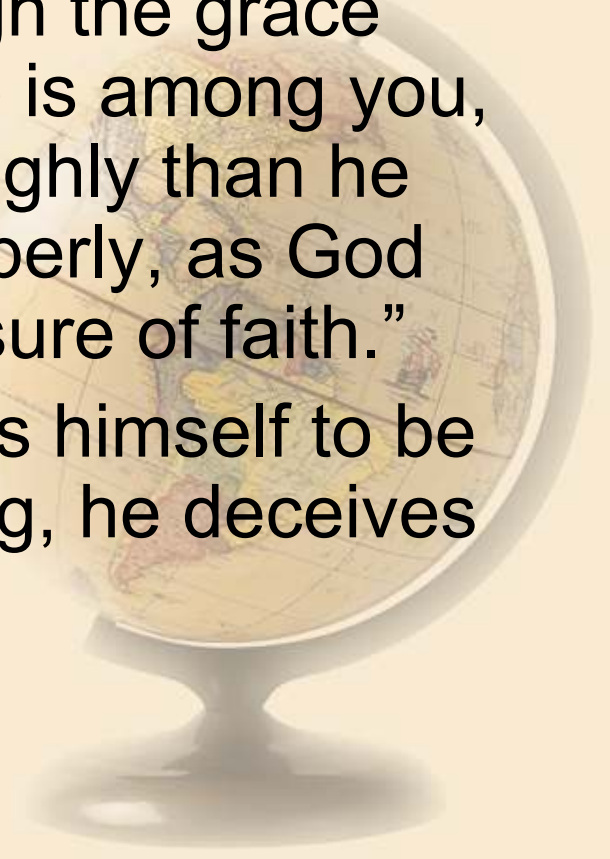
“Desires Of The Eyes”

- Out of place desires based on what is seen with the eyes: lasciviousness and envy
 - Gal. 5:19-21



“Pride Of Life”

- Works of the flesh like jealousy, rivalries, covetousness - Col. 3:5
 - Rom. 12:3 - “For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”
 - Gal. 6:3 - “For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.”



“Pride Of Life”

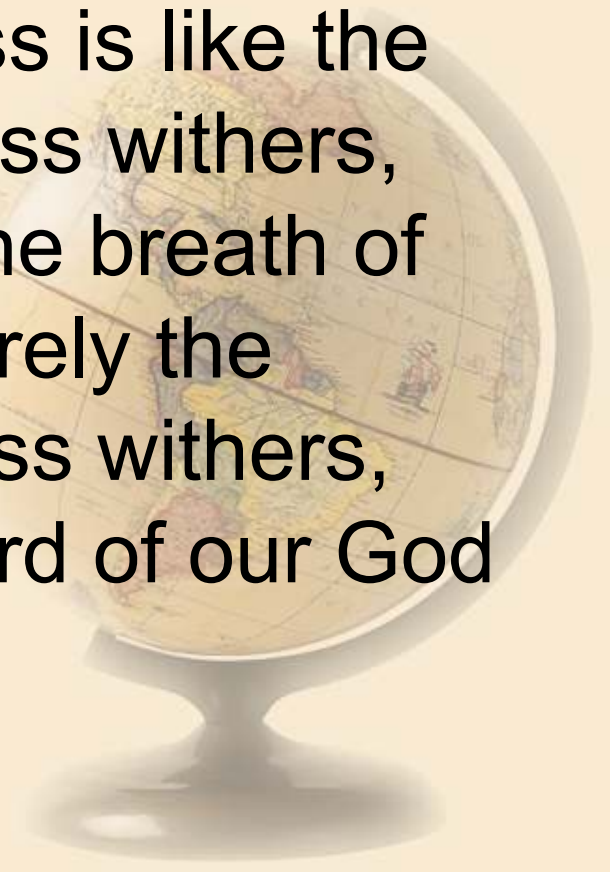
- Runs counter to the humility that identifies the Christian
 - Phil. 2:3-7 - “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”

“And The World Is Passing Away With Its Desires”

- 2Peter 3:10-11 - “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness”
- Matt. 6:19-20 - “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.”

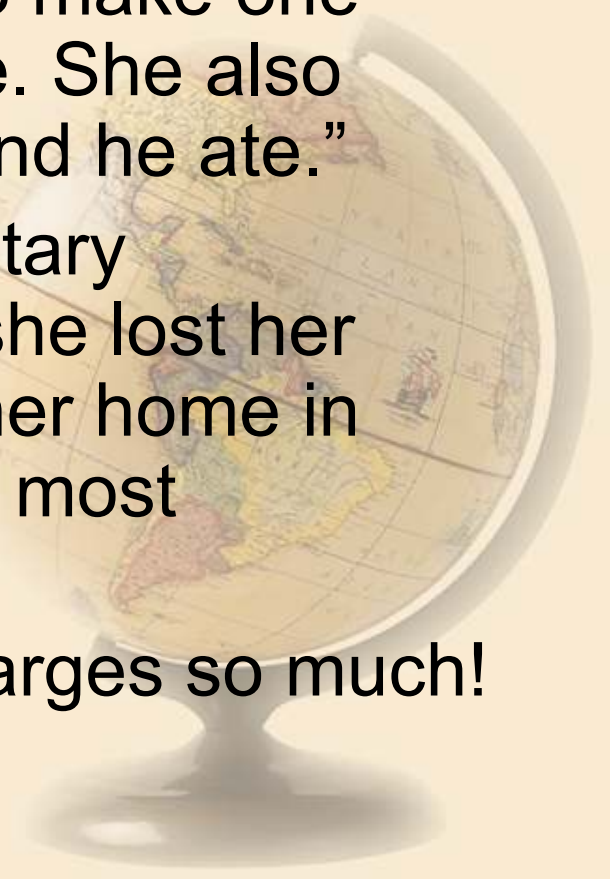
“But Whoever Does The Will Of God Abides Forever”

- Isa. 40:6-8 - “The voice said, ‘Cry out!’ And he said, ‘What shall I cry?’ ‘All flesh is grass, And all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades, Because the breath of the LORD blows upon it; Surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.”



The World Vs the Will of God

- Gen. 3:6 - “So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.”
- And in exchange for the momentary satisfaction of these appetites, she lost her innocence, her peace of mind, her home in Eden, her freedom. her life, and most important -- her soul
- The world offers so little and charges so much!



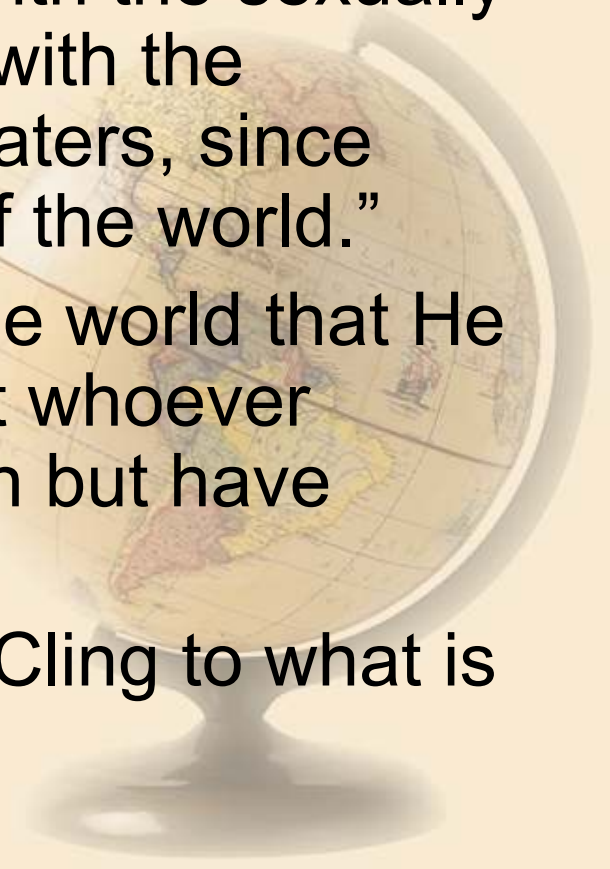
Avoiding the World

- How can we avoid worldliness?
 - Not by leaving the world
 - Not by isolation
 - Not by treating the world as a disgusting place filled with hateful people



Avoiding the World

- 1Cor. 5:9-10 - “I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. 10 Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.”
- John 3:16 - “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
- Rom. 12:9 - “Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.”



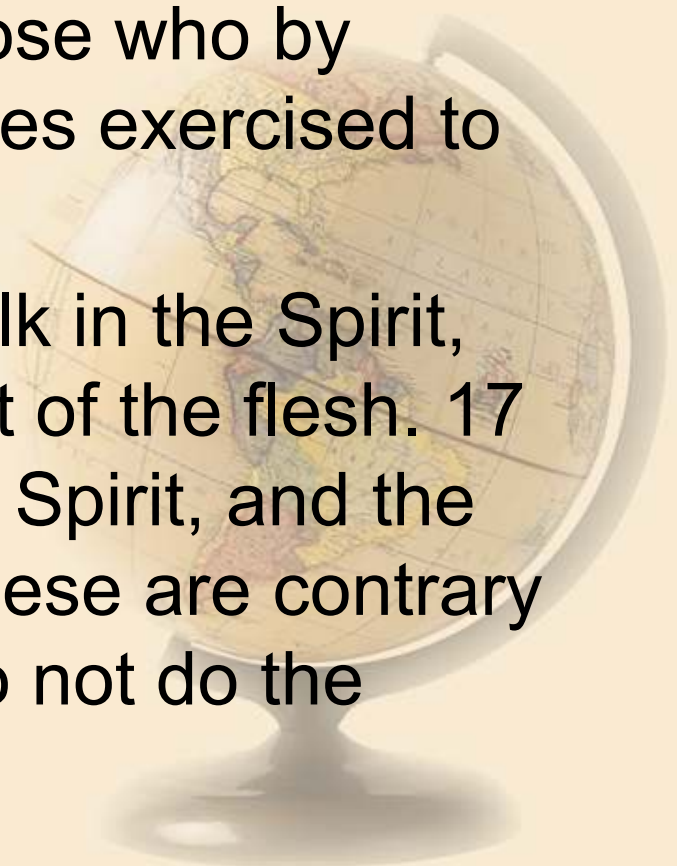
How Can We Avoid Worldliness?

- Biblical information
- Mental transformation
- Spiritual association



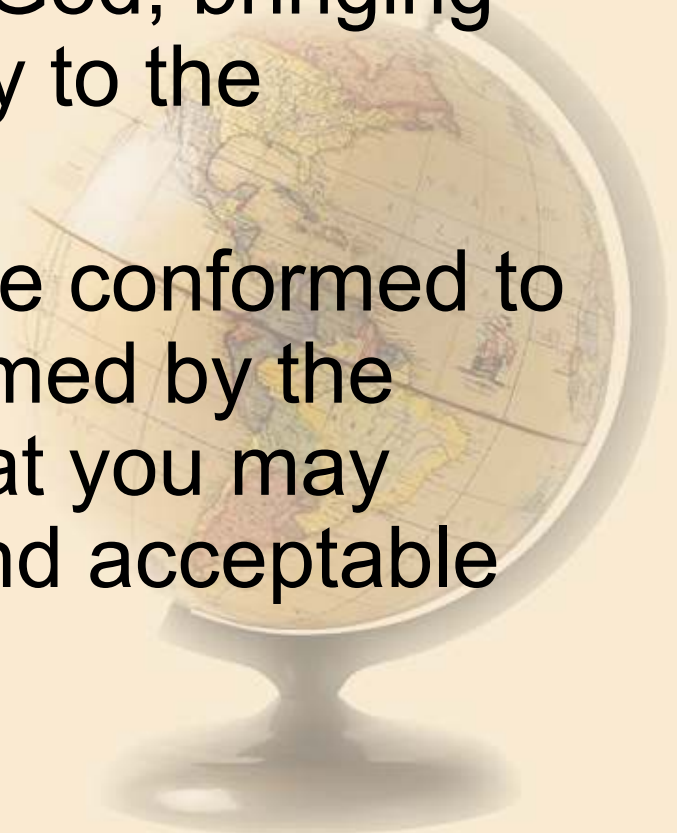
Biblical Information

- 2Tim. 3:16-17
- Heb. 5:14 - “But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”
- Gal. 5:16-17 - “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.”



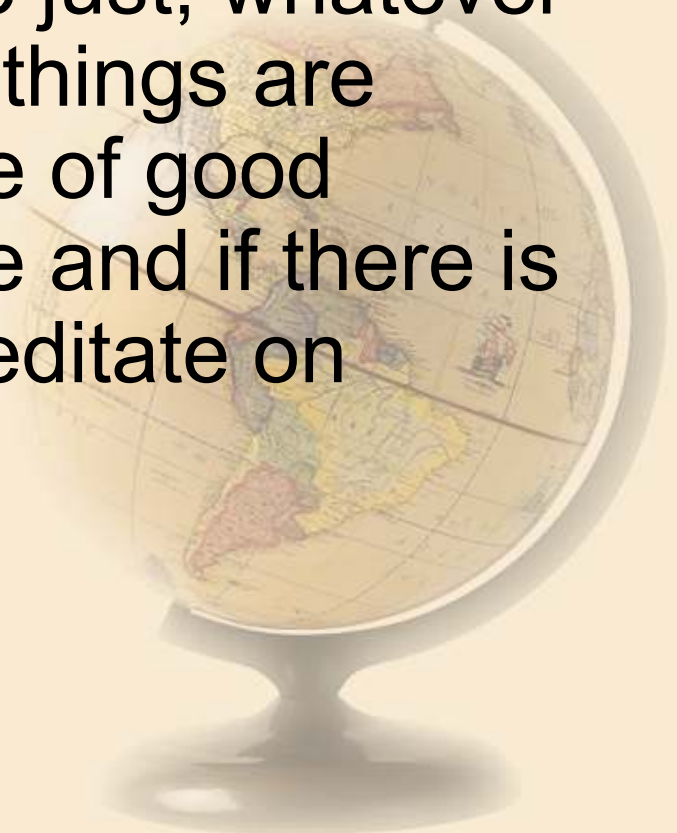
Mental Transformation

- 2Cor. 10:5 - “Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ”
- Rom. 12:2 - “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”



Mental Transformation

- Phil. 4:8 - “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things.”



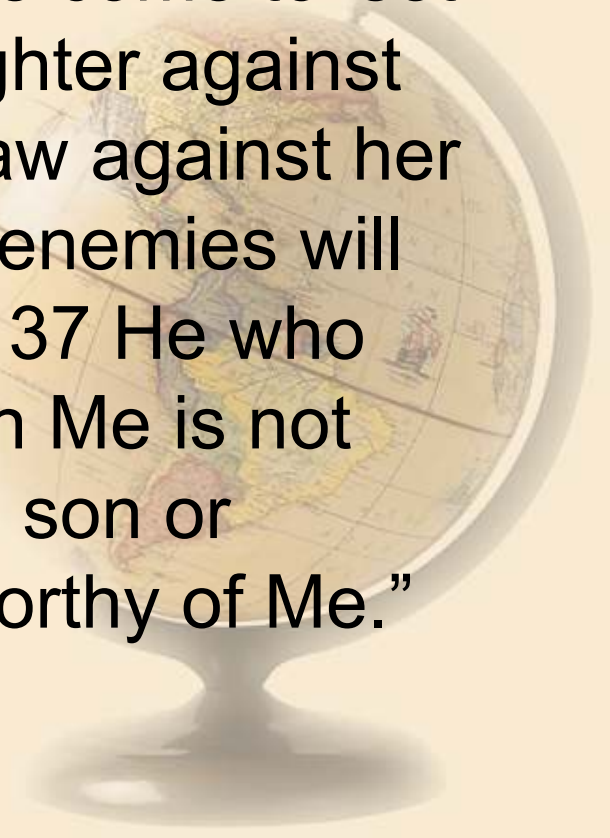
Spiritual Association

- 1Cor. 15:33 - “Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits.”
- By whom are we influenced?
 - With whom do we spend our time?
 - What relationships do we prize more highly?
 - Are they oriented toward the world or toward God?



Spiritual Association

- Matt. 10:34-37 - “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. 35 For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; 36 and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.' 37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.”



Spiritual Association

- Matt. 12:46-50 - “While He was still talking to the multitudes, behold, His mother and brothers stood outside, seeking to speak with Him. 47 Then one said to Him, Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You. 48 But He answered and said to the one who told Him, Who is My mother and who are My brothers? 49 And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, Here are My mother and My brothers! 50 For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.”

The World or the Will of God?

- Matt. 7:13-14 - “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

