

Editorial Thought...

THE WORLD AND ITS DESIRES...

"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."

(1st John 2:16- RSV)



Daniel Seay

The specific areas mentioned in our text verse (above) are where we must fight our daily battle against sin. It is not enough to say, *Don't love the world*. It must be brought down to specifics. It must be reduced to that with which we actually come in contact. So John adds, *all that is in the world*, and he defines this. He gives a list of these areas and says, *These do not come from the Father but are of the world*.

There is first, he says, the **lust of the flesh**. In the Scriptures the word *flesh* is usually something more than simply the body. It is the *sinful nature*, the fallen condition of humanity, which is present in the body. What is this *lust of the flesh*? There are certain things that our body desires that are perfectly proper, God-given. God has made us to have certain urges and hungers, and to satisfy these is not wrong. But the *flesh*, that sinful propensity within us, always seeks to add something - to go beyond the satisfying of God-given desires.

There is a second division John sets before us: **the lust of the eyes**. The eye symbolizes that which pleases the mind, or inner life. The *lust of the eyes*, like that of the *flesh*, goes beyond simple needs. Our minds were made by God to search and inquire, to take the great facts that revelation or nature set before us and to explore them. But there are certain limits to these. There are limits within nature, and there are limits within revelation. But the *flesh* takes this basic permission of God and pushes it beyond God's will to extremes we are forbidden to follow.

There is still a third division, which is **the pride of life**. This is the desire to awaken envy or adulation in other people. The first two divisions had to do with satisfying ourselves, not as God intended us to be satisfied, but beyond that. But these were directed toward us and only incidentally involved others. The pride of life, however, cannot exist except as it relates to others. It seeks to create a sense of envy, rivalry, and burning jealousy in the hearts of others and gives us pleasure in doing this to them. It is the desire to outshine or to outrank someone else.

So, what does John say? John does not say, *Do not have anything to do with any of this*. What he does say is this one phrase, *Do not love these things, do not set your hearts on them*, i.e. do not think of them as important; do not give yourselves to amassing things, do not love luxury and ease, and do not strive to outshine others. Oh, the subtlety with which this philosophy makes its appeal to us! When the love of these things, the importance of them, occupies our major interest; when we find them using up most of our money; when we find them looming large in our thoughts so that we are constantly dreaming of that *new something* we hope to get, then we are in spiritual danger.

May God open our eyes to see ourselves as we really are. May He guide us to hear the essential question from the Holy Spirit, *What is your heart truly set upon? What is your true love?*

News And Notes

Our Prayer List

Rob Harris, Susie Moore, Austin Clark, Gwen Gann, LouAnn Gann, Josh Wallace, Josh Werner, Billye Werner, June Brant, Donna Spader, Alice Jones, Diana Nordin, Peggy Tucker's granddaughter Ashley Kiister, Jeannette Pope, Betsy Pippin, Our Elected Officials and all World Leaders.

"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."
(James 5:16b)

Statistics

For The Week Of February 21st, 2016

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Sun3ay Class | 16 |
| Sunday AM | 23 |
| Sunday PM | dnm |
| Wednesday PM | 8 |
| Contribution | \$577.00 |
| YTD Budget (8 x \$735) | \$5880.00 |
| Difference Year-To-Date | -\$678.00 |
| Savings Account Balance | \$2,027.69 |

2nd Corinthians 9:12 - *Your generosity is doing great things*

MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays: LouAnn Gann (1), Charles Landrum (5), Daniel Seay (5), Nadene Elliott (7), Billye Werner (8), Norman Gann (13)

Anniversaries: None

COMING EVENTS

March Fellowship – March 13th, 2016

- At Noon - After AM Worship -

Let's Restock Our Pantry

- Carpenter Place picks up 3/17/16 -

PRAYER REQUESTS

Continue your fervent prayers for **Jozie and Christina Thompson, Seth Evans and his mother Brenda, Cynthia Bradley** (mother of Janice Seay), **Ashley Kiister** (granddaughter of Peggy Tucker), **Jennifer Pickering** (good friend of Chase Harris) and **Jimmy Golden** (friend of the Collins family who lives in California).

REMEMBER OUR PANTRY – PICKUP IS 3/17
A List Of Preferred Items Is In The Foyer!!

Agenda For Sunday, February 28th, 2016

Theme:

A HEART FOR GOD

Today's Topic:

"TURNING FROM GOD"

AM Class: *Christian Responsibility*

Teacher: Chase Harris / *In The Blue Room*

10:30 am: **Do Not Love The World**

Text: 1st John 2:15-17 / 2nd Timothy 4:10

1 pm: - **Where Is Your Heart's Treasure**

- A Monthly Review / Matthew 6:19-34 -

Wed. 7pm: *Class Study "BELIEVE"*

Wade McCallie, Teaching

Special Prayer Requests

Pray Special And Specific Intercessory Prayers For:

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| June Brant | Gwen Gann |
| Jeannette Pope | Alice Jones |
| Diana Nordin | Allen Sullivan |
| Billye Werner | Tim & Chandra Stebbins |
| Janice Seay | Earline Henson |
| Chris Folster | Roy Bays |
| Paul Apprill | Jennifer Pickering |
| Willie Whitaker | Jozie Thompson |
| Josh Werner | Jeanie McDonald |
| Susie Moore | Vickie McCallie |

"Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin." - James 4:17 -

TULSA WORKSHOP: APRIL 6-9

