

Bible Study
Living for God, Not the World – Continued – Lesson - 5
Pastor Charles A. Hall – May 4, 2023

Theme: Living for God, Not the World

“Living for God, Not the World” means that we as true Christians and believers of Jesus Christ no longer place our own selfish desires, needs, and wants above our relationship with God, making God’s desires and will a priority in our life. This means that what God wants for us, always supersedes, what we want for ourselves in any area of our life.

Foundational scriptures for our theme:

2 Corinthians 6:17 WHEREFORE COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM, AND BE YE SEPARATE, SAITH the LORD, AND TOUCH NOT THE UNCLEAN THING; AND I WILL RECEICE YOU,

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.

The Influence without:

During our last session together which was lesson four of the theme “Living for God, not the world, we discussed the struggle within us that hindered us from living for God. This lesson deals with the struggle without, that hinders us from living for God, not the world. The struggle without is the influence that people who try to live for God face day in and day out. It is the ungodly behavior of those that have been deceived by Satan to believe a lie, and now their mannerism, and behavior is reflective of who he is. The influence of their behavior is so strong and abundant throughout our society, and even the world, that it is almost impossible to avoid. This ungodly influence is in our community, our workplace, our friends, our families, our homes, and yes even in our churches. As followers of God our challenge is to learn how to live and be separate from a world with so much defilement and ungodly behavior, without being tarnish or overtaken by the defilement. It is impossible to be overtaken by the influence and defilement of Satan and to live a God-fearing life at the same time. **John 17: 13-16**

1John 5:19 – And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

- This verse provides us with the confirmation that even though the majority of humanity have been deceived by Satan, and are living under his power, we as believers have the blessed assurance that we are of God, and we are not under Satan’s lies, influence or power!

2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

- God has allowed Satan to have temporary control of the world system, and Satan has deceived and blinded the minds of unbelievers so that they have rejected the truth. The truth is the only power that will alter their thinking, or change their mind, and quicken or rebirth them by the spirit of God, then the presence of God will shine through them.

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Matthew 4:8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; (9) And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me,

- This verse gives us documented evidence of the depth of Satan's lies and deceit. Satan tries to tempt and deceive Christ with his temporary lordship of this world. By offering to give the kingdom to Christ, the rightful ruler, and Lord over the Kingdom, if Christ would bow down and worship him.

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

- This verse tells us to be alert unless anyone under the influence of Satan can carry or lure you away from the truth by overwhelming you with false teaching, and misleading deceptions. The rudiment of the world is elementary Christian truths that the world has turn into a lie.

Romans 12:2 And 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.

- This verse provides directions on how to separate ourselves from the world. By not trying to conform or be like the world. To resist the lies and influence of worldly views and philosophies. In other words believers value and conduct should not be based on the influence of the world, but rather God's truths.

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.

- The word of God in the writing of James, says that those who are unfaithful to God are spiritual adulterers and adulteresses, and are considered enemies of God. It is further stated that a friend of the world is at odds with God.

Ephesians 4:22-24 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; (23) And be renewed in the spirit of your mind (24) and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

- This verse encourages believers to always put off the old man, (who you use to be) before you received Christ as your Lord and Savior. Believers are expected to renounce, abandon, and quit their previous lifestyle before their conversion. The believer's new standing with Christ should give them a new nature, character, conduct and conversation.