

THE WORLD



*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.
—1 John 2:15*

John taught us clearly what he meant by “*the world.*” He wrote, “*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*” (v. 16).

The world is the disposition or power under which man has fallen through sin. And the god of this world, in order to deceive man, conceals himself under the form of what God has created. The world, with its pleasures, surrounds the Christian each day with temptations.

This was the case with Eve in the Garden of Eden. In Genesis 3:6, we find the three characteristics that John mentioned: first, the lust of the flesh: “*The woman saw that the tree was good for food*”; second, the lust of the eyes: “*It was pleasant to the eyes*”; and third, the pride of life: “*A tree to be desired to make one wise.*” The world still comes to us offering desirable food and much to please the fleshly appetites. It offers much that the eye desires, including riches, beauty, and luxury. And it offers the pride of life, which is shown when a man imagines he knows and understands everything, and prides himself on it.

Are our lives in the world not full of danger, with the allurements of the flesh, so much to occupy our eyes and our hearts, and so much worldly wisdom and knowledge?

John told us, “Do not love the world, for then the love of the Father is not in you.” Our Lord calls us, as He called His disciples, to leave all and follow Him.

Christian, you live in a dangerous world. Cling to the Lord Jesus. As He teaches you to shun the world and its attractions, your love will go out to Him in loyal-hearted service. But remember, there must be daily fellowship with Jesus. His love alone can expel the love of the world. Take time to be alone with your Lord.