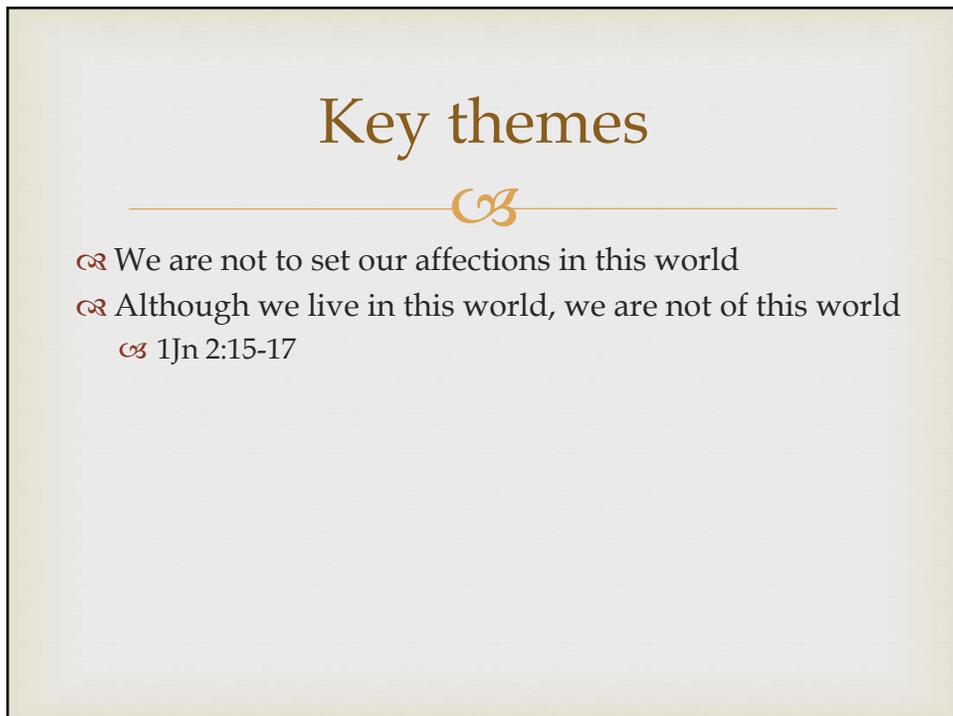


1



2

# Scripture Reading



## 1 John 2:15-17 (NASB)

15 Do not love the world nor 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 and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

3

# Overview of our passage



## Theme:

- ☞ We are not to set our affections in this world
- ☞ Although we live in this world, we are not of this world
  - ☞ 1Jn 2:15-17

## Doctrine:

- ☞ Can only serve one master
- ☞ Present world is passing away
- ☞ The will of God
- ☞ New heaven and earth is coming

## Application:

- ☞ Doing the will of God is how we overcome this passing world

4

## Exposit: 1Jn 2:15



15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

- ☞ “Do not love the world”
- ☞ You cannot serve two masters

5

## “Do not love the world”



- ☞ Greek for ‘love’ is ‘agapaō’ as we know is a sacrificial type of love; to appreciate or hold in high regard
- ☞ Greek for ‘world’ is ‘kosmos’ depending on context it could mean:
  - ☞ Earth
  - ☞ Creation
  - ☞ World system (in context here)
  - ☞ People
- ☞ “Do not love the world” is a direct command
  - ☞ Loving the world is sin
  - ☞ In context includes false teaching/religion that promotes the world’s agenda
- ☞ “nor the things in the world” is also a direct command
  - ☞ Loving the things in the world is sin
  - ☞ We’ll see what those “things” are in v. 16
- ☞ In 1Jn 2:15, John is saying do not love the fallen world system and how the world operates, including, how it views religion

6

## You cannot serve two masters



- ☞ John says in 15b "If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him"
- ☞ Another way to paraphrase what John is saying is you cannot serve two masters

- ☞ In Scripture, God's people are likened as sheep:

Isaiah 53:6

6 All of us like sheep have gone astray,  
Each of us has turned to his own way;  
But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all  
To fall on Him.

John 10:1-5

1 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the doorkeeper opens, **and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.** 4 When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 **A stranger they simply will not follow,** but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers."

- ☞ Sheep only listens to one shepherd (short video clip)
- ☞ TRUTH: we are designed to be shepherded

7

## You cannot serve two masters



### Matthew 6:19-24

19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures **on earth (in the world)**, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 **for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.** 22 "The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! 24 "No one can serve two masters (God or money); for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth (riches that can be amassed on earth).

8

## You cannot serve two masters



- ☞ Scripture is pretty clear, we have a choice:
  - ☞ Be shepherded by the world (including false shepherds or religions); OR
  - ☞ Be shepherded by God (the Good Shepherd and true religion)
  
- ☞ John says in 15b that those who are shepherded by the world, the love of the Father is not in him
  - ☞ You are not His sheep
  - ☞ You cannot be His sheep and be shepherded by the world

9

## Exposit: 1Jn 2:16



16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

- ☞ John sums up the world (cosmos) in 3 categories:
  - ☞ "lust of the flesh"
  - ☞ "lust of the eyes"
  - ☞ "boastful pride of life"
- ☞ Such things are not from God (heaven), but from the world (earth)

10

## “lust of the flesh”



Greek for ‘lust’ is ‘epithumia’ strong desire or passionate longing; its root is coveting

Greek for ‘flesh’ is ‘sarx’ which is speaking of our human body (where our soul presently resides); generally speaking of our unredeemed body

### **Romans 7:5**

5 For while we were in the flesh (sarx), the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death.

11

## “lust of the flesh”



☞ John is saying one of the things that this world has to offer is what we can lust after in our flesh, in this unredeemed body

☞ Paul sums this up:

### **Galatians 5:19-21**

19 Now the deeds of the flesh (sarx) are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

12

## “lust of the flesh”



- ☞ So here is one thing this world has to offer (and not God):
  - ☞ Immorality
    - ☞ The world (and some religions) says you can sleep with anyone who is not your spouse
    - ☞ God says you can only sleep with your spouse (singular)
  - ☞ Impurity
    - ☞ The world (and some religions) says you do not have to be holy, blameless, righteous
    - ☞ God says you are to be holy for He is holy and as His children are to have a character of being blameless and righteous
  - ☞ Sensuality
    - ☞ The world (and some religions) says you have a license to sin
    - ☞ God says you do not have a license to sin
      - ☞ Believers are a slave to righteousness

13

## “lust of the flesh”



- ☞ Idolatry
  - ☞ The world (and some religions) says you may serve more than one god or idol (deity or person)
  - ☞ God says Thou Shalt Not have any gods or idols before Him
- ☞ Sorcery
  - ☞ The world (and some religions) says you can be a drug addict, believe in horoscopes, fortune tellers
  - ☞ God says you are not to be given to such things, instead are to be sober minded so you can see clearly and pray
- ☞ Enmities
  - ☞ The world (and some religions) says you can fight for your freedoms, beliefs, and social causes even if you have to be hostile towards government or others to be heard
  - ☞ God says we do not wage war as the world does, instead we employ spiritual weapons (prayer, proclamation of the gospel)

14

## “lust of the flesh”



### ☞ Strife

- ☞ The world (and some religions says) its ok to quarrel, argue, and debate
- ☞ God says to avoid quarreling and instead be gentle (meek)

### ☞ Jealousy

- ☞ The world (and some religions says) its ok to have zeal and jealousy for that you believe in
- ☞ God says zeal without knowledge is foolish

### ☞ Outbursts of anger

- ☞ The world (and some religions says) its ok to have outbursts of anger when offended or you don't get what you want or to be heard
- ☞ God says being angry at someone deserves the same punishment as murder

15

## “lust of the flesh”



### ☞ Disputes

- ☞ The world (and some religions says) its ok to have selfish ambitions and pursue your dreams
- ☞ God says do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but consider others as more important than yourselves and entrust your plans to God

### ☞ Dissensions

- ☞ The world (and some religions says) its ok to cause dissension in the expression of freedom of religion
- ☞ God says keep your eye on those who cause dissension and turn away from them

### ☞ Factions

- ☞ The world (and some religions says) its ok to have different doctrines or opinions for all religions lead to heaven (universalism)
- ☞ God says we are to contend for the faith one and for all entrusted to the saints for there is only one true religion that leads to heaven

16

## “lust of the flesh”



- ☞ Envy
  - ☞ The world (and some religions says) its okay to be jealous for critical race theory, social injustices/inequalities/inequities
  - ☞ God says avoid foolish controversies and strife and disputes for true justice, equality, and equity are found in the gospel
- ☞ Drunkenness
  - ☞ The world (and some religions says) its ok to be given to drunkenness
  - ☞ God says whoever is given to drunkenness is not wise and harms himself and others
- ☞ Carousing
  - ☞ The world (and some religions says) its ok to participate in drinking parties, going to the bar/club scene, and having orgies
  - ☞ God says I called you out of such things for that is what you did in the past
- ☞ and things like these... (the etc. of what might please the flesh)

17

## “lust of the eyes”



Proverbs 27:20

Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied,  
Nor are the eyes of man ever satisfied.

Ecclesiastes 4:8

8 There was a certain man without a dependent, having neither a son nor a brother, yet there was no end to all his labor. Indeed, his eyes were not satisfied with riches and he never asked, “And for whom am I laboring and depriving myself of pleasure?” This too is vanity and it is a grievous task.

18

## “lust of the eyes”



Ecclesiastes 5:10-17

10 He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance with its income. This too is vanity. 11 When good things increase, those who consume them increase. So what is the advantage to their owners except to look on? 12 The sleep of the working man is pleasant, whether he eats little or much; but the full stomach of the rich man does not allow him to sleep.

13 There is a grievous evil which I have seen under the sun: **riches being hoarded** by their owner to his hurt. 14 When those riches were lost through a bad investment and he had fathered a son, then there was nothing to support him. 15 As he had come naked from his mother’s womb, so will he return as he came. He will take nothing from the fruit of his labor that he can carry in his hand. 16 This also is a grievous evil—exactly as a man is born, thus will he die. So what is the advantage to him who toils for the wind? 17 Throughout his life he also eats in darkness with great vexation, sickness and anger.

19

## “lust of the eyes”



So John is saying another thing the world has to offer:

- ☞ Riches
- ☞ Materialism
- ☞ Comfort (Financially Independent)
- ☞ Pleasure
- ☞ Retirement

TRUTH: Pursuit of such things opposed to being rich towards God is foolish and vanity a chasing after the wind.

20

## “boastful pride of life”



Greek for ‘boastful pride’ is ‘alazoneia’ which means boastful arrogance.

Proverbs 6:16-19

16 There are six things which the Lord hates,  
Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:

17 **Haughty eyes**, a lying tongue,  
And hands that shed innocent blood,  
18 A heart that devises wicked plans,

Feet that run rapidly to evil,  
19 A false witness who utters lies,  
And one who spreads strife among brothers.

☞ TRUTH: Pride is #1 sin God hates

21

## “boastful pride of life”



Proverbs 30:13

13 There is a kind – oh **how lofty are his eyes!**

And **his eyelids are raised in arrogance.**

☞ Pride is an attitude of one’s heart and manifests in facial expressions

Luke 12:16-21

16 And He (Jesus) told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man was very productive. 17 And he began reasoning to himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?’ 18 Then he said, ‘This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.”’ 20 But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?’ 21 So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

☞ Pride is an expectation that tomorrow is promised

22

## “boastful pride of life”



James 4:13-16

13 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.” 14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. 15 Instead, you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.” 16 But as it is, you boast in your **arrogance (alazoneia)**; all such boasting is evil.

23

## “boastful pride of life”



So John is saying the last thing the world has to offer:

- ☞ Elevation of self
  - ☞ Self-confidence
  - ☞ Self-belief
  - ☞ Self-worth
  - ☞ Stardom
  - ☞ Social Status
    - ☞ Societal privileges
- ☞ Presumption that tomorrow is promised

TRUTH: Pursuit of such things opposed to expressing humility towards God is foolish and vanity and chasing after the wind.

24

## AMP: 1Jn 2:16



16 For all that [the world has to offer], the lust of the flesh [pleasing your sinful passions and impulses] and the lust of the eyes [riches, materialism, pleasures, comfortable retirement] and the boastful pride of life [self-confidence, self-belief, self-worth, stardom, adoration and status, and presumption that tomorrow is promised], is not from the Father, but is from the world.

- ☞ John sums up the world in 3 things:
  - ☞ "lust of the flesh"
  - ☞ "lust of the eyes"
  - ☞ "boastful pride of life"
- ☞ Such things are not from God (heaven), but from the world (earth)
- ☞ TRUTH: Those who pursue such worldly things are friends of Satan and enemies of God

25

## Exposit: 1Jn 2:17



17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

- ☞ "world is passing away"
  - ☞ The day of the Lord vs. the day of the Lord Jesus Christ, etc.
- ☞ "the one who does the will of God"
  - ☞ Lives forever

26

## “world is passing away”



- ☞ “and the world \*passeth away” (CWSB)
  - ☞ \*Verb
  - ☞ \*Present tense
- ☞ TRUTH: World is passing away since the beginning and will completely wither away at the end

Isaiah 34:4

4 And all the host of heaven will wear away,

And **the sky will be rolled up like a scroll;**

**All their hosts will also wither away**

As a leaf withers from the vine,

Or as one withers from the fig tree.

27

## “world is passing away”



Isaiah 51:6

6 “Lift up your eyes to the sky,

Then look to the earth beneath;

**For the sky will vanish** like smoke,

**And the earth will wear out** like a garment

28

## “world is passing away”



2 Peter 3:10-13

10 But **the day of the Lord** will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a \*roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. 11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! 13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

29

## “the day of the LORD”



Zephaniah 1:14-16

14 Near is **the great day** of the LORD,  
Near and coming very quickly;  
Listen, the day of the LORD!  
In it the warrior cries out bitterly.  
15 **A day of wrath** is that day,  
**A day of trouble** and distress,  
**A day of destruction** and desolation,  
**A day of darkness and gloom,**  
**A day of clouds and thick darkness,**  
16 **A day of trumpet and battle cry**  
Against the fortified cities  
And the high corner towers.

30

## “the day of the LORD”



- ☞ Majority of use of this phrase points to the end of the world
- ☞ Synonymous with “the Great Day” and “the Great Tribulation”
- ☞ Consists of:
  - ☞ Day of wrath
  - ☞ Day of trouble
  - ☞ Day of destruction
  - ☞ Day of darkness and gloom
  - ☞ Day of clouds and thick darkness
  - ☞ Day of trumpet and battle cry
  - ☞ Cataclysmic events in the heavens
  - ☞ Catastrophic loss of life and food/water on the earth
- ☞ CAUTION: Does not mean this all occurs in a 24hr period
- ☞ Peter say that at the very end of all this, the heavens/earth will pass away and be destroyed

31

## “the day of the Lord Jesus”



1 Corinthians 1:7b-8

7b awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:6

6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:10

10 so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ;

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

11 Now may our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord direct our way to you; 12 and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you; 13 so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

32

## “the day of the Lord Jesus”



- ☞ Also known as:
  - ☞ The day of the Lord Jesus Christ
  - ☞ The day of our Lord Jesus
  - ☞ The day of Christ Jesus
  - ☞ The day of Christ
  - ☞ The coming of the Lord
  - ☞ The coming of the Lord Jesus Christ
- ☞ It is NOT the:
  - ☞ day of the LORD
  - ☞ the Great Day
  - ☞ the Great Tribulation
- ☞ It IS the:
  - ☞ Day of the resurrection of believers (Rapture)
  - ☞ Day of the judgment seat of Christ (the bema judgment)
    - ☞ Judgement for believers (the elect)

33

## “world is passing away”



Revelation 20:11-15

11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence **earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.** 12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

34

## “world is passing away”



- ☞ Is environmentalism biblical?
- ☞ Should we be for “Saving the planet”
- ☞ Should we be against global warming?

After the flood, God made this promise:

Genesis 8:20-22

20 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. 21 The Lord smelled the soothing aroma; and the Lord said to Himself, “I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man’s heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done.

22 “While the earth remains,

Seedtime and harvest,

And cold and heat,

And summer and winter,

And day and night

Shall not cease.”

TRUTH: God promises to sustain this passing world (and its lusts) until which time He decides to put an end to evil and sin and death and this present heavens/earth.

35

## “the one who does the will of God”



- ☞ What is the will of God?

Mark 3:35

35 (Jesus said) For whoever does **the will of God**, he is My brother and sister and mother.”

- ☞ We must know God’s will because tied to being found in it “lives forever”!

- ☞ Part of the Lord’s prayer is for “Thy (God’s) will be done on earth as it is in heaven”

Romans 8:26-27

26 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; 27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints **according to the will of God**.

36

## “the one who does the will of God”



- ☞ Thankfully the Scripture defines “the will of God” for us
- ☞ First we must recognize that God has a will (ability to make choices and decisions) for His own pleasure and purposes
  - ☞ Having a will is one way humanity was created in God’s image
    - ☞ Exercising sovereignty
    - ☞ Relational
    - ☞ Ability to create, set goals, achievements
- ☞ Secondly, we must recognize that the will of God is internal
 

Ephesians 6:5-8  
 5 Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in **the sincerity of your heart**, as to Christ; 6 not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, **doing the will of God from the heart**. 7 With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, 8 knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.

37

## “the one who does the will of God”



- ☞ Thankfully Jesus and Paul explicitly tells us what the will of God is!
 

John 6:39-40 (Jesus speaking to the Jews in the crowd)  
 9 **This is the will of Him** (God the Father) who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. 40 For **this is the will of My Father**, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8  
 3 For **this is the will of God**, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, 5 not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; 6 and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. 7 For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. 8 So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.

38

## “the one who does the will of God”



- ☞ God the Father’s will is as follows:
  - ☞ That all He has given to the Son (the elect) will be raised from the dead in glory on the last day
  - ☞ That all who believes in Jesus will have eternal life
  - ☞ Our sanctification (holy and set apart)
    - ☞ Abstaining from sexual immorality;
    - ☞ Honoring our body
      - ☞ Controlling our sinful passions and impulses, not in lustful passion
    - ☞ Do not defraud a fellow believer
    - ☞ For us to pursue purity
- ☞ TRUTH: John reminds us that if we do the will of God, we have eternal life and will live forever in the midst of this passing evil generation and have to look forward to the new heaven/earth!

39

## “the new heaven and earth cometh”



Revelation 21:1-8

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; **for the first heaven and the first earth passed away**, and there is no longer any sea. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, 4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

5 And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He \*said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.” 6 Then He said to me, “ It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. 7 He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. 8 But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

40