

Eastern Bible Conference – 2010  
Young Adult Bible Study  
**Unspotted from the world!**

“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this; to visit the fatherless and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.” James 1:27

“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.” 1 John 2:16

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

**I. Sunday - Introduction**

There are at least five ways the world is used in the Bible

- 1) Physical, material – John 1:10, Acts 17:24, Romans 1:20
- 2) World of mankind - Matthew 5:14; 13:38, Mark 16:15
- 3) In the inhabited earth – John 3:16
- 4) Age – span of time – Matthew 12:32; 24:3
- 5) An organized system that excludes God – John 12:31; 16:33; Romans 12:2  
1 Corinthians 1:12

It is the last one listed that is the subject of this study...

Its origin – Genesis 4:16 – Cain went out from the presence of the Lord  
First example of the idea of “worldliness” Genesis 11:3,4 – “let us make a name for ourselves”

- a. What is in the world? – an ideology (it is a self-centered view) that has no room for God; 1 John 2:15-16
  - i. Lust of the eyes...
  - ii. Lust of the flesh...
  - iii. Pride of life...
- b. The believer and the world - position
  - i. Have escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust 2 Peter 1:4
  - ii. Delivered from the bondage of the beggarly elements of the world – Galatians 4:9,10
  - iii. Escaped the pollutions of the world – 2 Peter 2:20
- c. The believer and the world – practice
  - i. Non – conformity – Romans 12:1,2
  - ii. Be unspotted from the world - James 1:27
- d. As Cain’s descendants were affected by his being out of the presence of the Lord – there is a contrast Genesis 4:26 “then began men to call upon the name of the Lord”

The principles that are at work in the world can and do affect the believer. There are specific areas in which the corruption, pollution, and elements can impact the believer. The balance of the week's discussion is in three areas: 1) Why am I here? 2) What does it mean to be a man? 3) What does it mean to be a woman? Unfortunately the world's ideology has encroached in our minds in these three areas, and with the help of the Spirit of God we want to identify and adjust our thinking in these three areas...

## **II. Tuesday – Saved to Serve**

So why are we here? – In creation – for the Lord Jesus and His pleasure, Rev 4:11; Genesis 3:8 fellowship - God walked in the Garden with man...

- a. World's ideology
  - i. We are here to make a name for ourselves, Gen. 11:1-4
  - ii. We are here to maximize our pleasure
  - iii. We are here to make as much (materially) as we can...
  - iv. We are entitled to be happy...
  - v. Individual rights is the highest virtue..
- b. Biblical ideology
  - i. Turned to God from idols to serve the true and living God – 1 Thess. 1:9
  - ii. ...serve one another – Gal. 5:13
  - iii. Do good to all – Gal 6:9-10; looking for every “opportunity”; Eph. 2:10
  - iv. Redeeming every life situation for the Lord, 1 Cor. 7:21, 31-35; Col. 3:23; Num. 4, service in putting together the tabernacle
  - v. We are equipped – Romans 12:6-10, 1 Peter 4:10-11; 1 Cor. 12 Exercise/use of gifts, talents and abilities....
- c. Principles of Service from Philippians
  - i. Aim of service - 1:21
  - ii. Attitude of service – 2:5
  - iii. Appetite for service – 3:10,11
  - iv. Ability for service – 4:13
- d. Daniel - an example of being fully immersed in the culture without being defiled by the world – Daniel 1:1- 21; 2:17,18; 6:10; 9:2
  - i. Enrolled in “Babylon University” – Exposed to its philosophy and writings and language 1:4
  - ii. Purposed in heart not to be defiled by the portion of the king's meat or his wine 1:8
  - iii. Surrounded himself with those of like mind... 2:17
  - iv. Prayer was his habit, 2:18, 6:10
  - v. Study of the scriptures 9:2
- e. Jesus Christ the Son of man – Matthew 20:28; Mark 10:45 came not to be served but to serve!

### III. Wednesday – Straight talk to men...

- a. World's ideology
  - i. Personal autonomy; "all seek their own," Phil. 2:20-22
  - ii. Use who you may and do whatever you want to get yours; e.g., the hidden motives of Judas, Jn. 12
  - iii. Accountable to self
  - iv. Relativistic morals and ethics
- b. Biblical definition of manhood - Genesis 2:7, 15, 16;
  - i. Responsible – v.7
  - ii. Under authority – v.15,16, 1 Corinthians 11:2,3
  - iii. Accountable - Romans 14:13
  - iv. Personal integrity
    - 1. Luke 8:15 – heart for the word
    - 2. 2 Corinthians 8:21 – Before the Lord and in the sight of all men
  - v. Personal responsibility
    - 1. Accountability to God - Roman 14:12
    - 2. Sober minded –Titus 2:6-8 Sober-mindedness is "bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor. 10:5,6)

There are two specific areas of concern...

- 1) The assembly – Our tradition requires men who are willing and ready to be used by God in a) priestly service and b) "Levitical" service – 1 Peter 2:5, 9
  - a. "Cares for the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord" 1 Cor. 7:32
  - b. Benefiting from wisdom of the previous generation, 2 Kings 6:1-7
  - c. Energy and zeal (2 Tim. 1:5-8) rather than being resigned to "small things"
- 2) In relationships – too easily adopting the world's way in relating to women
  - a. Treat the young women as sisters 1 Tim 5:2b – in place of flirting and emotional entanglements
  - b. Personal preparation needed in order to "lead about a sister, a wife" 1 Cor. 9:5a

#### **IV. Thursday – Straight talk to women...**

- a. World's ideology
  - i. Personal autonomy
  - ii. Appearance over and above substance.
  - iii. Accountable only to self
  - iv. Relativistic morals and ethics
  - v. Dinah - an example; Genesis 34:1 "She went to see the daughter's of the land." The result was disastrous!
- b. Biblical definition of womanhood – Prov. 31:30; 1 Peter 3:2-4; 1 Cor. 7:34; 1 Tim 2:9,10; Titus 2:3
  - i. Fears the Lord – shall be praised Prov. 31:30
  - ii. Chaste manner of life; 1 Pet. 3:2
  - iii. Not based on outward appearance – 1 Pet. 3:3
  - iv. Ornament of a meek and quiet spirit – 1 Pet. 3:4 (Highly prized by God)
  - v. Cares for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy in body and soul
  - vi. Modest apparel, with good works – 1 Tim 2:9, 10
  - vii. Not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things – Titus 2:3
  - viii. Sober, discreet, chaste, good Titus 2:4

There are two areas of specific concern:

1) Deportment – at one extreme – dressing in a manner that is immodest; speaking in ways that are contentious, having an 'odious' attitude...

Prov. 11:22

2) Relationships... the unhealthy pursuit of a marriage partner, or the unhealthy emphasis on the desire to get married so that it becomes the goal and the end rather than a vehicle for the will of God to present itself. Many of the New Testament exhortations are for married woman; the attributes are not going to simply appear after marriage; these exhortations identify characteristics that need to be cultivated as single women – The earth cannot bear when an 'odious' woman is married –Prov. 30:23

Those who desire to be married must:

- 1) Delight in the Lord – Psalms 37:4
- 2) Trust in the Lord – Psalms 37:5
  - leaving the choice to the Lord...

V. **Friday - Overcoming**

- a. Christ the overcomer... John 16:33
- b. Dependency on Christ; our faith-1 John 5:4,5 (Forsaking All I Take Him)
- c. Renewal of the mind ... Romans 12:1,2
- d. Cannot leave the world – 1 Cor. 5:10b
- e. To be lights in the world Eph 5:8, Matt 5:14, Phil 2:15
- f. 1 Peter 3:15
  - i. Lordship – “Sanctify the Lord, the Christ in your heart” – set apart Christ in your heart as Lord
  - ii. Learning – “Be ready to give a defense” – example of the Lord in Isa. 50:4
  - iii. Lowliness – “with meekness and fear,” humility and respect
    - 1. 2 Tim. 2:24-25, the servant of the Lord must not strive
    - 2. we are not trying to win arguments; we are trying to win people
  - iv. Lifestyle – “to every man that asks a reason for the hope in you” – the queen of Sheba saw Solomon’s lifestyle and was affected by it (2 Kings 10)
- g. Stark contrast to it – Titus 2:12

## Appendix

### Definition:

The world – (kosmos) is not always used negatively

- a. an apt and harmonious arrangement or constitution, order, government
- b. ornament, decoration, adornment, i.e. the arrangement of the stars, 'the heavenly hosts', as the ornament of the heavens. #1Pe 3:3
- h. the world, the universe
- i. the circle of the earth, the earth
- j. the inhabitants of the earth, men, the human family
- k. the ungodly multitude; the whole mass of men alienated from God, and therefore hostile to the cause of Christ
- l. world affairs, the aggregate of things earthly
- m. the whole circle of earthly goods, endowments riches, advantages, pleasures, etc, which although hollow and frail and fleeting, stir desire, seduce from God and are obstacles to the cause of Christ
- n. any aggregate or general collection of particulars of any sort