

Lesson # 7 -- Deliverance from the World.

Introduction

- A. In the last lesson we were reminded that we have three enemies: the fleshly nature (Romans 7:14-25); the Devil (I Peter 5:8,9); and the sinful world system all about us (I John 2:15-17).
- B. In all of these areas where we are so vulnerable Jesus Christ has come to be our Deliverer.
- C. It is vitally important to keep in mind that the deliverance provided for us has to do with the inner transformation of the person. Too often we equate separation from the world as an outward conformity to the "rules" of the church.
- D. The theme of this lesson is found in Galatians 1:3,4.

Grace be to you and peace from God the Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.

I. The Meaning of the Term "World".

- A. The Scriptural explanation in Ephesians 2:2,3.

Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience, among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Observations:

1. All of us have a past in which we lived according to the "course (manner of life) of this world". It is evident from these verses that the world refers to the attitude and goals of life which are primarily selfish and self-seeking.
2. In living such a life we were acting in harmony, directly or indirectly, with Satan. He dominates and directs unregenerate humanity and the system of the world is an evidence of this domination.
3. We once lived for goals that had to do with the desires of our fleshly nature. The term "flesh" refers to a powerful principle or "nature" of sin. This includes but goes far beyond the desires of the body. All of us have been programmed by sin to seek our own way, to live for ourselves, to try to find satisfaction out of the will of God.

B. The Scriptural explanation in I 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. 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. And the world passeth away and the lust thereof, but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Observations:

1. If a person finds his basic motivation in a self-centered, sinful way of life (worldliness) it is evident that he is not born again. (Note I John 2:3-5; 3:8-10)
2. The Bible explains that the "world" is related to sinful desires related to one's "fleshly nature", "visual and mental pleasures" and "pride". The power of these desires is beyond human comprehension.
3. This world system, with all its desires, is highly temporary. It is evident that the attraction of the "world" with all its lusts is a deceptive attraction. No one has ever found personal fulfillment through such a selfish and self-centered way of life.

II. The Warnings Regarding the World.

A. Living in harmony with the world will "choke" the Word of God, Matt. 13:22.

He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the Word and the care of this world and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the Word and he become unfruitful.

Observation: We cannot live according to the pattern of the world and escape. We become hindered in our daily life by the insidious effects of the world. The end result is unfruitfulness.

B. Living in harmony with the world will make us the enemy of God, 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.

Observation: To be friendly (approve of, seek delight and fulfillment in, have compatibility with) the world (a way of life which is predominately sensual, selfish, self-seeking and proud) is to make oneself like an adulteress before God (Psalm 73:27; Jeremiah 3:6-10) and to bring into one's life a serious barrier to divine fellowship and blessing. We must face this serious warning and evaluate our lives accordingly.

C. Living in harmony with the world involves one with Satan, Eph. 6:12.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Observation: Satan rules through the darkness (selfishness, sensuality and error) of the world. When the Christian chooses to live out of harmony with the truth and therefore in error, and in selfishness and sensuality - then he makes himself vulnerable to Satanic control. If this way of life is one's most basic characteristic then he must question whether he is truly born again.

Summary: These passages are given in the Scripture to show us how serious it is to give way to the temptations presented by the world. If we are to find the practical deliverance provided for us through Jesus Christ we must give heed to these warnings, confess our worldliness, and live according to the Word of God.

III. The Divine Provision Regarding the World.

A. The provision of the Crucifixion and the Resurrection.

. . . In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world. John 16:33

Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father. Gal. 1:4

God forbid that I should glory, save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by Whom the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world. Galatians 6:14

Observation:

1. Jesus Christ became a member of the human race to break the power of sin and thereby deliver us from the world. He "overcame" the world for us.
2. This work of Jesus Christ separates the believer from the world. This "separation" or being "crucified to the world" came to pass in our lives when we were born again. The Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ stands between us and the world.
3. When the Christian will choose to live like the world his attitude and actions are a violation of his relationship with God.
4. Through Jesus Christ, and the ministry of the Holy Spirit, the believer has the ability to live free from the demands of the world.

B. The provision in the new birth.

If ye were of the world, the world would love his own, but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. John 15:19

I have given them Thy Word and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world . . . They are not of the world even as I am not of the world. John 17:14,16

Observation:

1. We have been chosen by Jesus Christ to be His own and therefore we are not a part of this sinful world. This truth must be accepted in how we look upon ourselves, develop our priorities, and live our daily life.
2. This is the reason the Christian is called a "pilgrim" and a "stranger" (I Peter 1:1; 2:11) and is exhorted to live a life separate from the world (II Corinthians 6:14-18).
3. The Christian does not need the world. In the new birth he has been given a new motivation in love for God, a new nature and a new goal in life - the glory of God.

IV. The Exhortations Regarding the World.

A. We are to live so that we are not conformed to this world, Romans 12:1,2.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Observation: The word "conformed" in this verse has reference to making one thing to be "shaped" like another. We are not of this world and are here exhorted not to allow the world to reach us and bring us into "conformity" to its self-centered way of life. The path of freedom from the world is through a dedication of our bodies to God, a continual renewing of our mind through the Word so that the Holy Spirit can transform (metamorphosis - change from the inside) us. When we make these decisions of faith, love and hope we open the door to the grace of God so He can rescue us.

B. We are to live so that we deny worldly lusts, Titus 2:11,12.

For the grace of God, that bringeth salvation, hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.

Observation: Here we are exhorted to forsake or renounce all desires that are of a worldly nature. We must examine our motives, our attitudes, our priorities, our goals, our pleasures, our evaluation of others, our actions, etc., and be willing to reject whatever is of a self-centered character. God cannot set us free from those worldly desires that we choose to maintain.

C. We are to live so that we are not spotted by the world, James 1:27.

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Observation: The word "unspotted" means "unstained" and refers to moral purity. The world is here described as producing a stain or a blemish in the life of the believer who lives according to its standards.

Conclusion: Examination Questions.

- A. Have I accepted the selfish and self-centered goals of the world. Do I live for myself?
- B. Have I accepted the authority of the world? It is simply being one's own boss - self rule - autonomy.
- C. Have I accepted the way to solve problems as suggested by the world? Do I respond by emotional explosions, manipulating people, drugs, drink, etc.?
- D. Am I conformed outwardly to the gospel but not transformed within?
- E. Have I accepted a worldly relationship with people? Do I demand my own way, manipulate people, bear grudges, nurse bitterness, maintain jealousy, criticism, envy, gossip, divisions, pride, self-righteousness, and indulge in self-pity?
- F. Do I recognize the effects of worldliness in my life? Am I characterized by a lack of fruit (Matt. 13:22); temporary satisfaction (I John 2:17); the lack of divine blessing (James 4:4); the chastening of the Lord (I Cor. 11:32); and the hindering work of Satan (Eph. 6:12)?
- G. Am I able to love and sacrifice for people without thought of return?
- H. Am I irritated when people do not recognize my worth and my service?
- I. Do I have the attitude that I deserve better treatment than I am getting?

Solution: We must ask God to forgive us (I John 1:9); we must reject our worldliness (Titus 2:11,12); and ask God to transform us (Rom. 12:1,2).