

HIGHER AIM WITH DR. CURT DODD

Do Not Love The World

Saved And Secure | Part 3 | 1 John 2:15-17

INTRODUCTION

The application of biblical directives is vital in every generation, especially in uncertain times. When we look at the world stage, it is easy to feel unsettled. The Bible, however, gives us a worldview to understand these events, reminding us that we could be on the edge of the end of days. Scripture tells us that one day, all nations will turn against Israel, and America is not mentioned as standing with her in that final battle.

What could cause such a scenario? While nations may fight over resources like oil, the Bible points to a spiritual reality. If Christ were to return for His church today, would you be ready? More importantly, are we living as people who are ready? This is not a time for fear but for focus. We must have a biblical worldview that prepares us for what is to come and empowers us to live faithfully in the present. As sojourners with citizenship in heaven, we are called to be salt and light until He calls us home.

KEY POINTS

1. We Must Be Ready For Christ's Return

Every prophetic word for the Second Coming of Jesus has been fulfilled. While we do not know the day or the hour, we are called to live with urgent expectation. This readiness is not a passive waiting but an active preparation of our hearts and a compassionate effort to ensure our family and friends are also ready. A biblical worldview understands that history is moving toward God's intended conclusion. This perspective should not create anxiety but excitement and a renewed commitment to the Great Commission. We must be on point, sharing the hope of Christ with a world that desperately needs it.

2. We Must Have Confidence That We Are Children Of God

Living with spiritual insecurity makes us vulnerable to the shifting winds of culture and crisis. God does not want us to be tossed to and fro. The book of 1 John was written so that believers would have confidence, an intimate knowledge that they belong to Christ. This assurance is not based on feelings or perfection but on the finished work of Jesus. The proof that we know Christ reveals itself in how we live. Do we desire to walk in the light? Do we seek to obey His Word? This confidence is essential, because it is the foundation from which we can faithfully serve Him without needing the world's approval.

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3. We Must Not Love The World System

The command, "Do not love the world," does not refer to God's beautiful creation or to the people He came to save. It refers to the world's system of values. This system is defined by "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life." It is a system built on what we can acquire, what we can display, and the applause we can receive. It is a mindset that says, "Look at me," rather than, "Look at Jesus." This worldly love is the opposite of love for the Father. If our hearts are captivated by the temporary approval and possessions of this world, it is a sign that our love for God has grown cold.

The greatest battle for a believer is often fought within their own heart. The world system is subtle, and its values can easily slip into our lives and even our ministries if we are not vigilant. We are programmed by our fallen flesh to seek affirmation and applause. Our culture constantly tells us that we are not truly somebody unless others acknowledge our success, our possessions, or our influence. This is a lie energized by the evil one.

The greatest affirmation you will ever receive is not in what you have or what you do, but in whose you are. You belong to Jesus. That is the only identity that matters and the only one that will last. When we are secure in our identity as children of God, we are set free from the need to perform for the world's approval. Our service, our giving, and our living flow not from a need to be seen, but from a heart that is captivated by Christ. God's mathematics are different from the world's. He is not looking for what we can offer Him, but for hearts that are fully His.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. If you knew Jesus was returning next month, what would you do differently this week? Who in your circle of influence needs to hear about the hope you have in Christ?
2. The "world system" is driven by the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. In what practical ways do you see these values competing for your affection and attention?
3. Psalm 37:4 says, "Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart." What is one step you can take this week to intentionally delight in God rather than seeking fulfillment from the world?
