

When we read through 1 John, we note contrasts drawn between the things of the world and the things of the Father. The book, *Embracing Obscurity*, highlights the striking differences between the two. Please read over the two columns, note the differences, and consider which one influences your life most. (Remember, 1 John is about transformation not just information.)

Things of the World

The focus is on me.

Make as much money as possible.

Live comfortably

reap

Make a name for yourself.

Do whatever makes you happy.

Teach your children to love themselves and seek self-fulfillment.

always,

Look like a model in a magazine and turn your physical appearance into an idol. beauty.

Offer "acts of service" when you feel like it.

Stay married as long as your spouse meets your needs.

love

Come across as powerful, influential, and/ or interesting.

Use (worldly) wisdom to accrue wealth.

earth.

Stay up to date with the fashions.

They are passing away.

Things of the Father

The focus is on God.

Give as much money away as possible, and invest yourself in others.

Life is not about comfort, but about doing hard things now so that we can rewards in the life to come.

Make His name great.

Do whatever makes God happiest.

Teach your children to love and obey God. ("Behaving" is often, but not a blessed by-product.)

Treat your body as the temple of the Holy Spirit, and cultivate an inner

Be a servant, even when it is uncomfortable or inconvenient.

Serve your spouse (the way Christ modeled servanthood), and choose to

him or her for life.

Give preference to others in words and actions.

Value true wisdom (which is the fear of God) over all the treasures on

Be content just to have clothes.

They will abide forever

I do the will of the world.

I do the will of the Father.