

LOVE NOT THE WORLD

1 John 2.15-17

From last week...

We are growing; maturing; victorious. We are disciples; believers; overcomers.

Main point: DO NOT give up!

Do not become weary in well-doing. DO NOT stop confessing.

Do not stop walking in faith ...trusting ...waiting ...believing

Work the work; WALK the walk; follow the Word...GROW.

Today In the following verses John gives us some insight into how to nurture this growth.

Do not love (IDOLIZE) the world or the things in the world.

If anyone loves (lives in a continual state of idolizing) the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world—the lust (EPITHUMIA) of the flesh, the lust of the eyes,
and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Very lengthy intro...REASON? Someone asked a while back, why do you refer to the Greek all the time?

...re-answer that, but with a bit of fun, inspiring history...

...NT was written in Greek, Jesus spoke Aramaic and Greek (as well as Hebrew)

So let's begin our journey in Daniel 2:

Daniel interpreted a dream for Nebuchadnezzar; 4 kingdoms.

- Babylon; Medo-persia; Greece; Rome.

- Capstone is 2.44:

And in the days of these kings (FOURTH KINGDOM, Rome)

the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed;

and the kingdom shall not be left to other people;

it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

Later, in Daniel 9, God actually gives the timeline in years:

From the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem to the Messiah...490 years.

That decree came from Cyrus in 457 BC: 490-457 is...Jesus!

HOW magnificent is the Word? 600 years before Jesus came...

AND...the Jews should have known their own scriptures!

For a moment, let's concentrate on the 3rd Kingdom of Daniel's prophecy: Greece.

- This prophecy was fulfilled in a man named Alexander the Great
- He eventually conquered 2 million square miles. Europe, N Africa, Pakistan, India...
- One of the outcomes of the Greek empire was that KOINE Greek became the common language of the known world...
- Greek culture and Greek language birthed the Roman Empire

So from 300BC-500AD...

KOINE Greek was the tongue of the known world...

Thus, the NT was written in Koine Greek, ***but then it disappeared...***

It is as if God opened a window for 800 years, wrapped history around a language in that window, used it to write the New Testament...then CLOSED the window.

Now...I said ALL THAT so we could understand the first word of 1 Jn 2.15; LOVE.

In Greek, four basic types of LOVE:

...eros (sexual), stoige (family), phileo (brotherly) and AGAPE.

Why does this help me? Because I deeply like many things in the world and it's OK!

God has richly given us all things richly to enjoy!

There are too many Christians that cut themselves off from enjoying things in life!

Because they think it makes them holy...

they have to wear a dress down to here

they have to have a beard

they have to drive a certain thing

they have to live a certain way

they have to deny certain things

cannot associate with certain people

(Col 2) They subject themselves to regulations–

"Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle," which all concern things which perish with the using– according to the commandments and doctrines of men."

ENJOY, BUT DO NOT WORSHIP

I can enjoy a good friendship with someone.

I can enjoy a walk in the woods

I can enjoy a sexual relationship w/ my wife

I can enjoy shopping at the mall

I can enjoy a good cup of coffee in the morning

I can have a favorite sitcom on TV

I can stand at the edge of the Grand Canyon and love what I see

In the proper context, I can have eros; stoige; phileo and AGAPE ALL THE TIME!

I need to learn how to enjoy... but not worship

How to use, but not possess; how to know who I am, but not be proud;

How to be sufficient, but not saturated

Give me the food that is appropriate for me; give me just enough

Lest I be full and deny you or poor and steal. (Prov 30.8)

They key is the Greek word...

Epithumia: thumia (passion)... epi (over, above)...

Do not have an inordinate, overboard passion, or extreme, over indulging.

ENDURE

It is all passing away...what is? The physical world? NO.

Not the earth! It is going to be made new!

Jn 3.16: For God so loved the...world. People!

Jn 15: The world will hate you.

What hates me? An elm tree? A cloud? The grass outside?

No, the spirit of the world hates me!

And this “spirit” is passing away!

The Kingdom that started in the days of Rome is now consuming the universe

The desires I have that I always have to fight will someday pass away, *either at my death or His coming*

He who endures to the end will be saved!

REIGN (he who does the will of God abides forever).

When I say NO to my flesh I am saying YES to eternity!

...to my carnal desires ...victory forever

...to my passions ...eternal authority

Enjoy all that God has given you!

Do NOT grasp for what He has NOT given you!

Love everyone!