

# The Wrong Kind of Love



March 9, 2025  
Speaker: Mike Tam

## 1 John 2:15-17 (ESV)

<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world— the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life— is not from the Father but is from the world. <sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

# Roadmap for Today's Message

1. The Danger of the Wrong Kind of Love
2. Worldliness Flows from Our Sin Nature
3. satan's scheme to draw us away from God
4. Taking Victory: Choosing to Love God

# Roadmap for Today's Message

1. The Danger of the Wrong Kind of Love

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## 1 John 2:15 (AMP)

<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world [of sin that opposes God and His precepts], nor the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

# Love for the World & the Things in the World

materialism

hedonism

foodie-ism

alcoholism

narcissism

affluenza

workaholism

intellectualism

tribalism

# Worldliness

materialism

hedonism

foodie-ism

alcoholism

narcissism

affluenza

workaholism

intellectualism

tribalism

# Idolatry

materialism  
hedonism  
foodie-ism  
alcoholism  
narcissism

affluenza  
workaholism  
intellectualism  
tribalism

## Matthew 6:21,24 (ESV)

21 "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

24 "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

# Love for the World & the Things in the World

“... anything that successfully competes with our love for God is an idol.”

John Piper

# GOD is the Most

Psalm 34:8 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> Oh, taste and see that the LORD *is* good; Blessed *is* the man *who* trusts in Him!

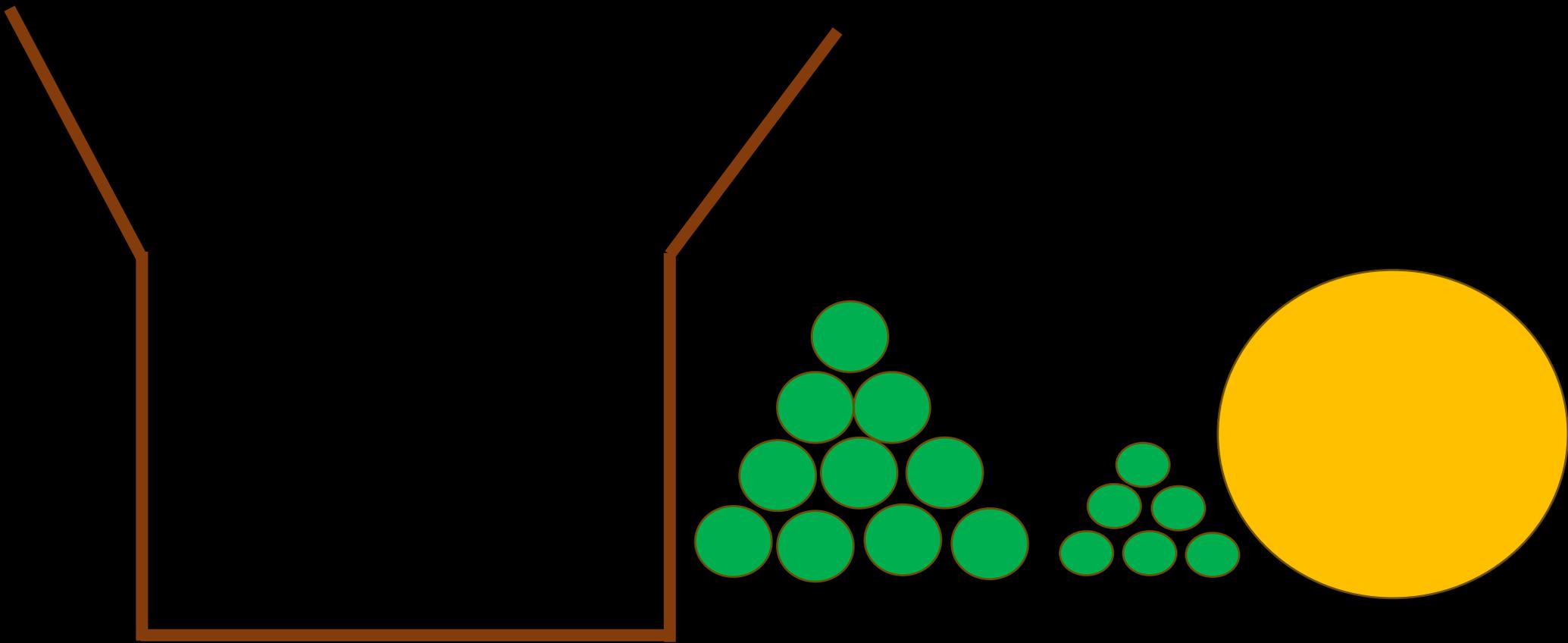
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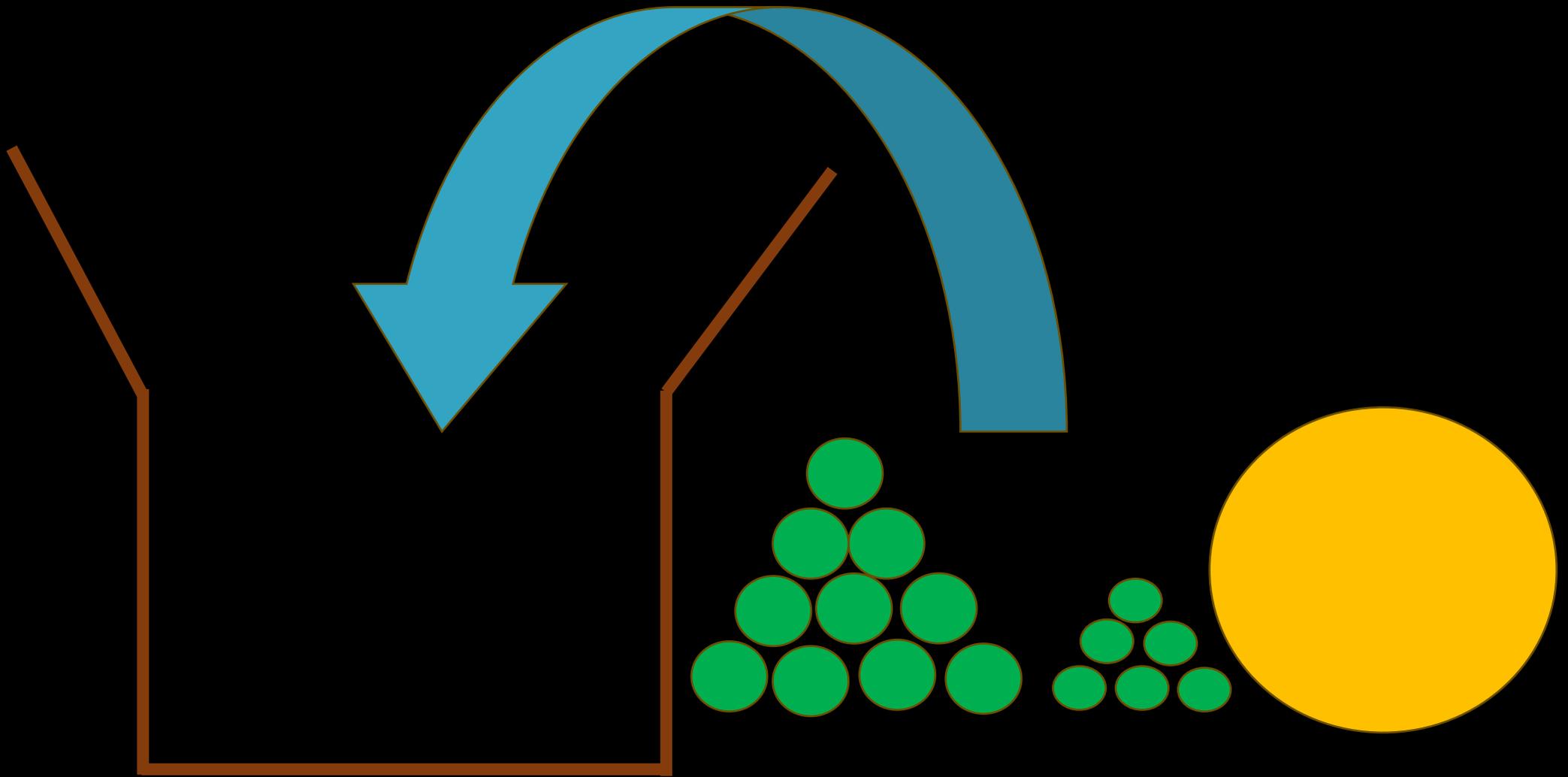
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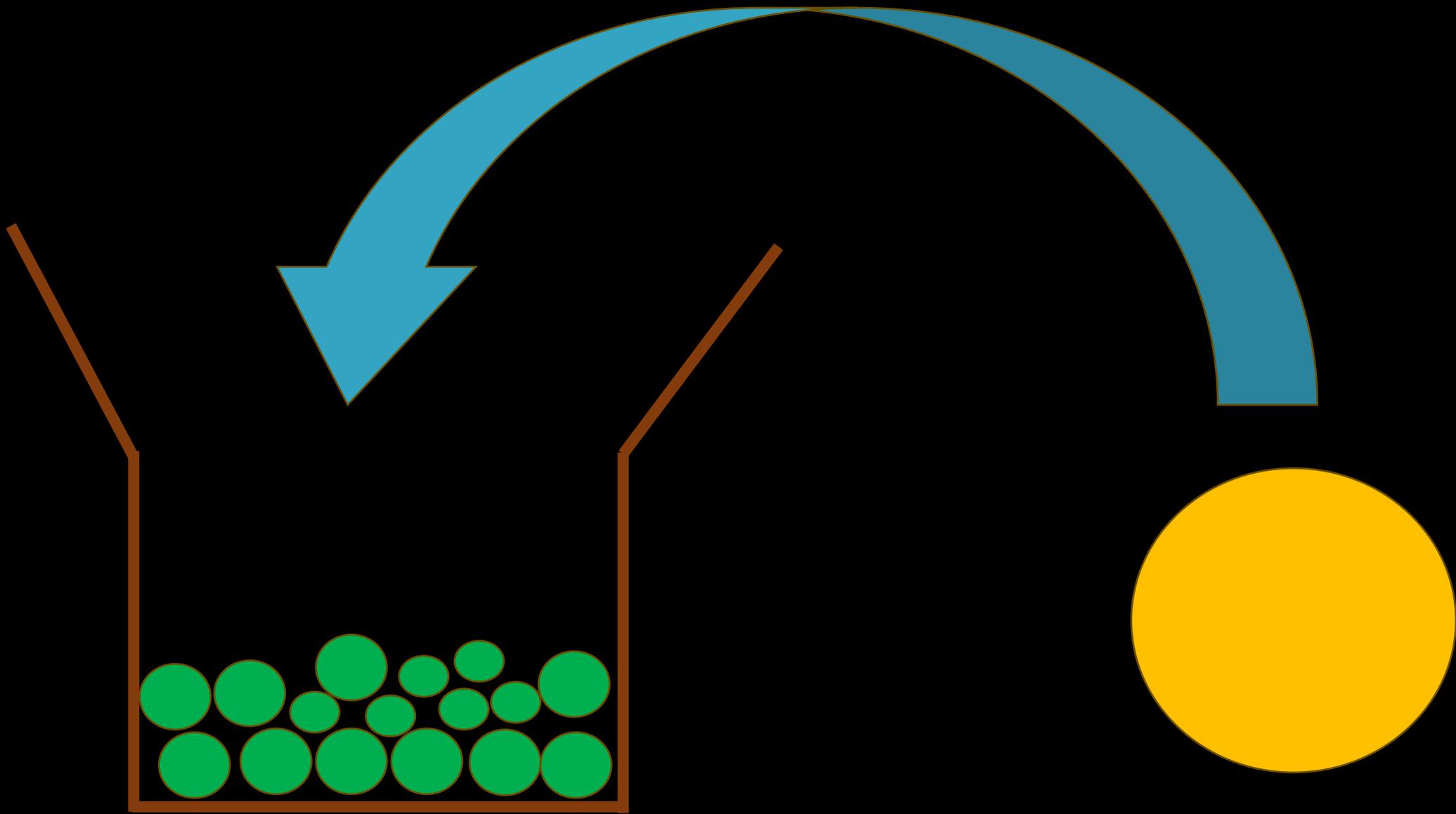
## James 4:1,2a,4 (ESV)

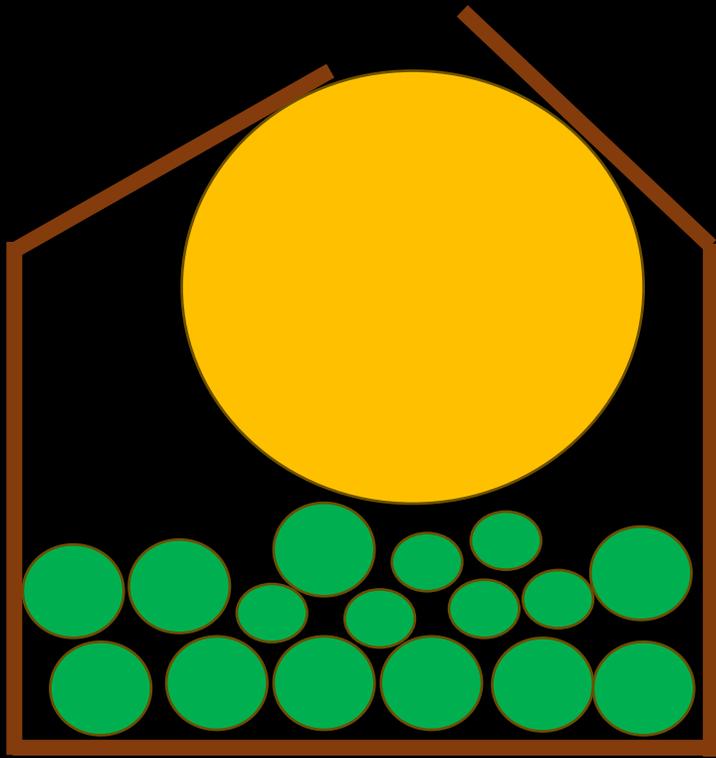
<sup>1</sup> What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? <sup>2a</sup> You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel.

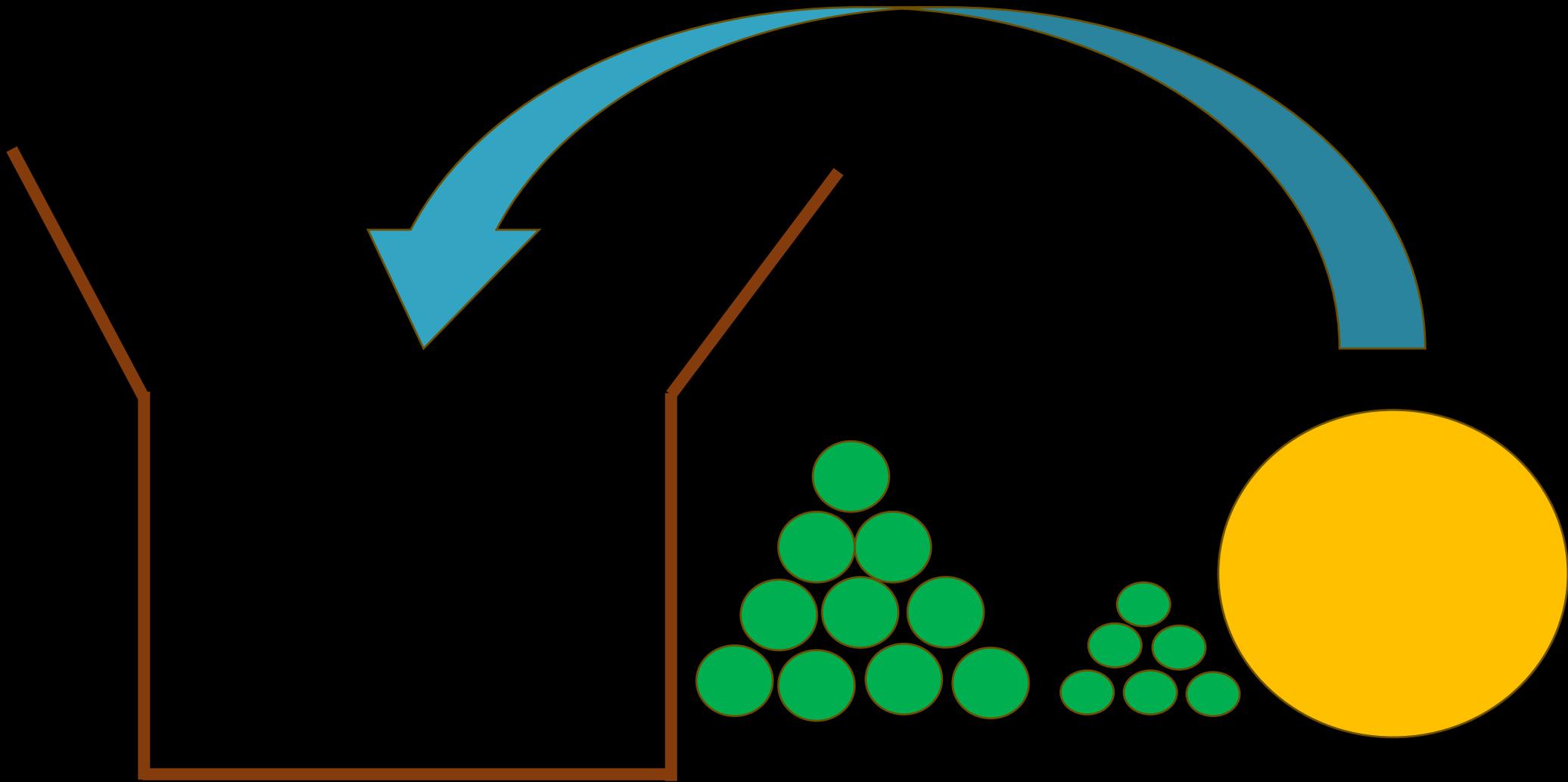
<sup>4</sup> You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

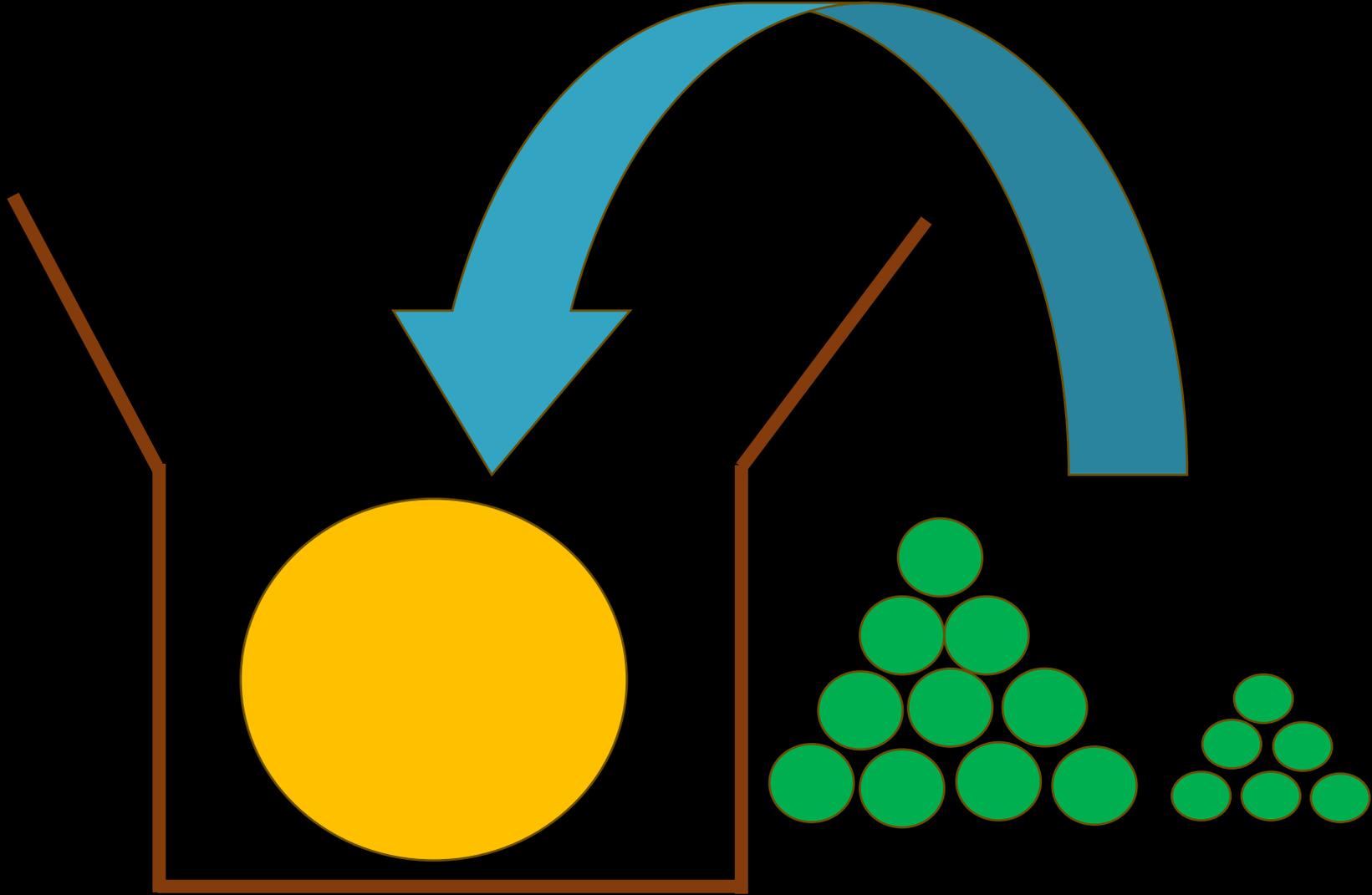


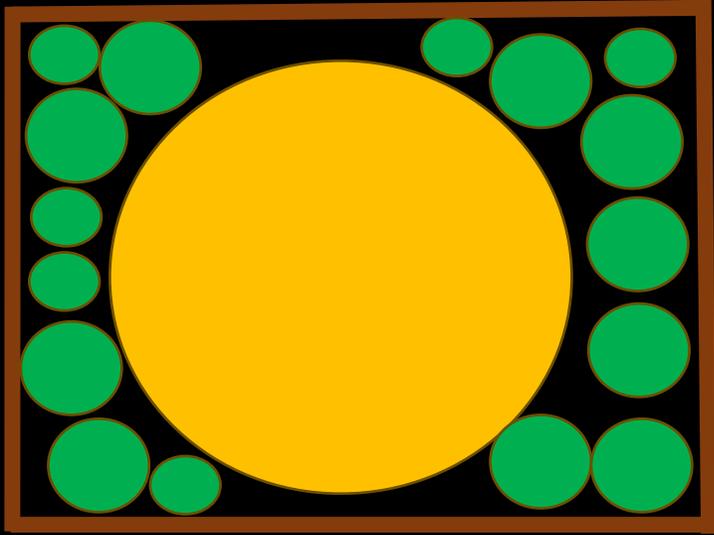












# Roadmap for Today's Message

1. The Danger of the Wrong Kind of Love
2. Worldliness Flows from Our Sin Nature

## 1 John 2:16 (AMPC)

<sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world– the lust of the flesh [craving for sensual gratification] and the lust of the eyes [greedy longings of the mind] and the pride of life [assurance in one's own resources or in the stability of earthly things]– these do not come from the Father but are from the world [itself].

# Worldliness is a Heart Attitude of the Sin Nature

the sin nature is so self-centered and selfish that it is self-indulgent, self-gratifying, and self-seeking

- the desires of the flesh
- the desires of the eyes
- the pride of life

# Desire = epithumeo or epithumia

to set the heart upon, i.e. long for (rightfully or otherwise):

-- desire (in a good sense)

-- desire (in a bad sense), covet, crave, lust (after), strong sexual desire, desire for what is forbidden

## Galatians 5:19-21 (ESV)

<sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

## Matthew 6:21-24 (ESV)

<sup>21</sup> "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. <sup>22</sup> The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, <sup>23</sup> but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! <sup>24</sup> No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

**Pride = alazoneia**

braggadocio, i.e. (by impl.) self confidence:

-- boasting, pride

"to lift up," "to mount up," "to rise," "to be high,"  
"to inflate with self conceit..."

# Pride

"is incessantly selfish, and a proud person thus loses... recognition of his true position as over against God or... others."

The Encyclopedia of the Bible

# Pride

“All satisfaction from pride is self-satisfaction, and it is endless: pride of evil, pride of goodness, pride of birth and position, even pride of humility.

No moral suasion or guidance can break in because self-satisfaction always feels complete in itself.”

The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible  
The Encyclopedia of the Bible

# Pride

insolent

arrogant

conceited

stubborn

boastful

being vain

smugness

self confidence



# What does it look like when pride is at work?

## Because I...

Am funnier or cooler

Am stronger or better looking

Am smarter or richer

Possess a certain skill or characteristic

What does it look like when pride is at work?

Therefore I...

Feel secure or superior from what I have or can do

Deserve to be treated better

Am worth more

Am better than

Should be obeyed or listened to more

## 1 John 2:15-17 (ESV)

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## Genesis 3:6 (ESV)

<sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

## Matthew 4:3,6b,8 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, **command these stones to become loaves of bread.**"

<sup>6b</sup> ..."**"He will command his angels concerning you,' and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone."**

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and **showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.**

# satan's scheme to draw us away from God

satan



**Temptation**  
**Fears**  
**Lies**

- the desires of the flesh
- the desires of the eyes
- the pride of life



sinful decisions



sinful actions

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# Taking Victory: Choosing to Love God

- draw near to God & let His Spirit lead
- soak in God's words & truth
- internalize an eternal perspective
- do God's will with Him

## James 4:8 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

## Galatians 5:16,17 (ESV)

<sup>16</sup> But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

## Galatians 5:22-24 (ESV)

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

## 1 John 2:15-17 (ESV)

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“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”

Jim Elliot

# The Bible Project



## Mark 8:36 (ESV)

<sup>36</sup> For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?

# REFLECTION & APPLICATION

- Repent: If you need to turn away from an area of lust, pride, or loving the world, tell God & apologize.
- Receive God's forgiveness: Thank God for His grace.
- Replace: Ask Holy Spirit to fill you with His presence & power... and to lead you to walk in a new way. Say, "Yes!"