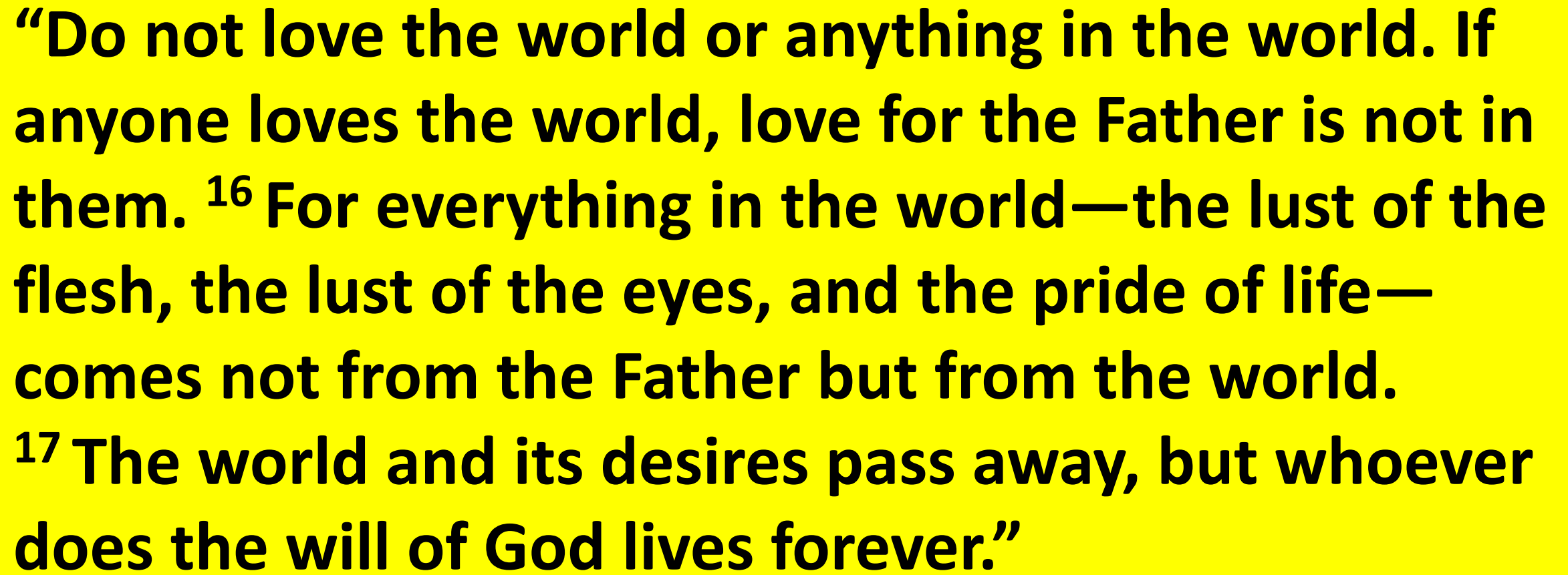




Do we spend enough time in God's Word for it to get into us?

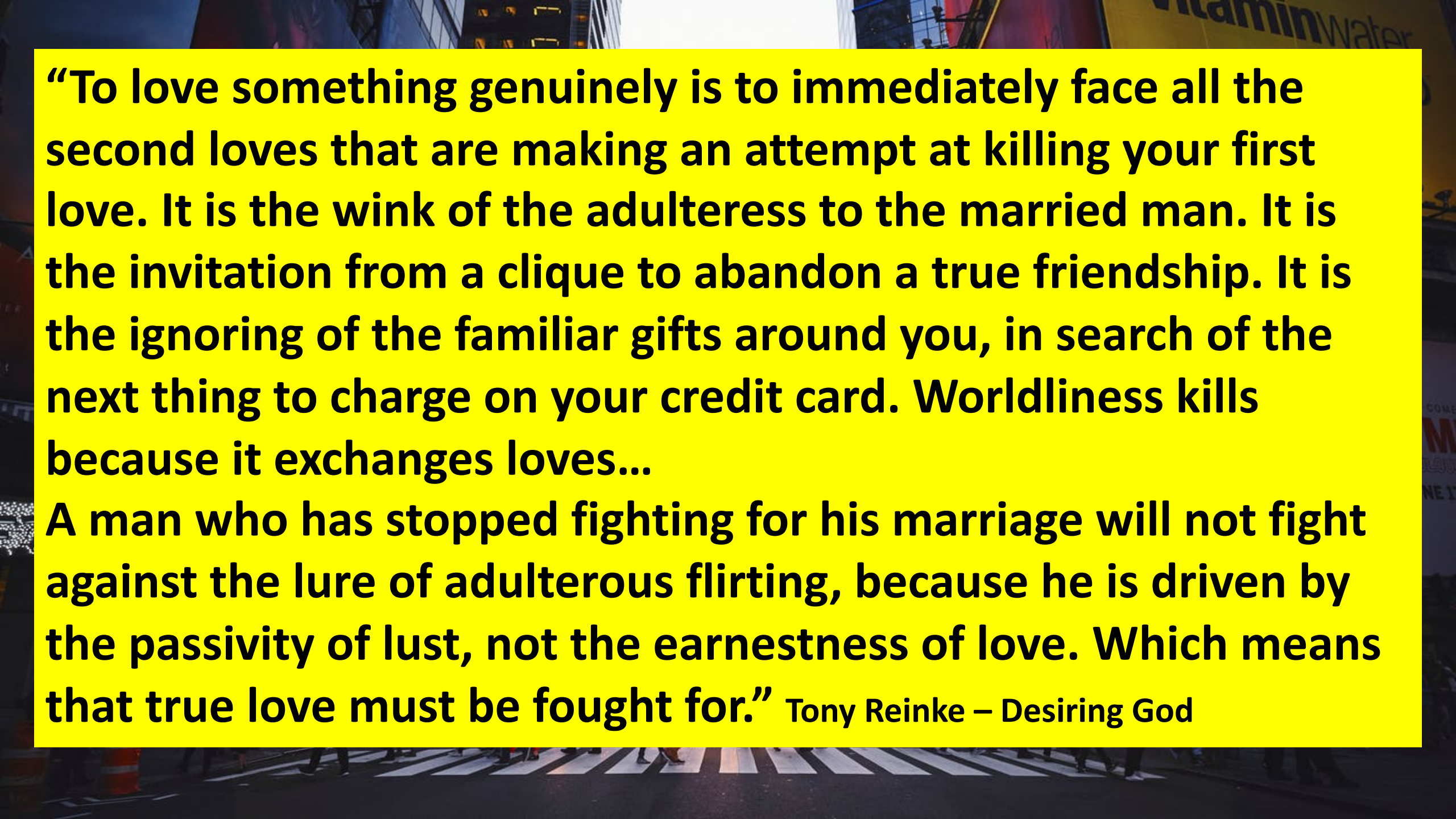
A photograph of a busy city street at night, likely Times Square in New York City. Tall buildings with illuminated windows and signs are visible in the background. A large yellow rectangular overlay covers the upper two-thirds of the image, containing text in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The text is a quote from the Bible. Below the yellow overlay, the lower third of the image shows a street scene with many pedestrians crossing a crosswalk, cars with their headlights on, and orange traffic barrels on the left side.

“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.”

1 John 2:15-17 NIV

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. ² I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. ³ You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. ⁴ Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.” Revelation 2:1-4

The background of the image is a dark, nighttime city street scene. In the upper portion, there are silhouettes of tall buildings and a partially visible sign that reads "Vitamin Water". In the lower portion, a crosswalk with white stripes is visible on the pavement, and some blurred figures of people can be seen walking. A large, solid yellow rectangular box is superimposed over the center of the image, containing the text.

“To love something genuinely is to immediately face all the second loves that are making an attempt at killing your first love. It is the wink of the adulteress to the married man. It is the invitation from a clique to abandon a true friendship. It is the ignoring of the familiar gifts around you, in search of the next thing to charge on your credit card. Worldliness kills because it exchanges loves...

A man who has stopped fighting for his marriage will not fight against the lure of adulterous flirting, because he is driven by the passivity of lust, not the earnestness of love. Which means that true love must be fought for.” Tony Reinke – Desiring God

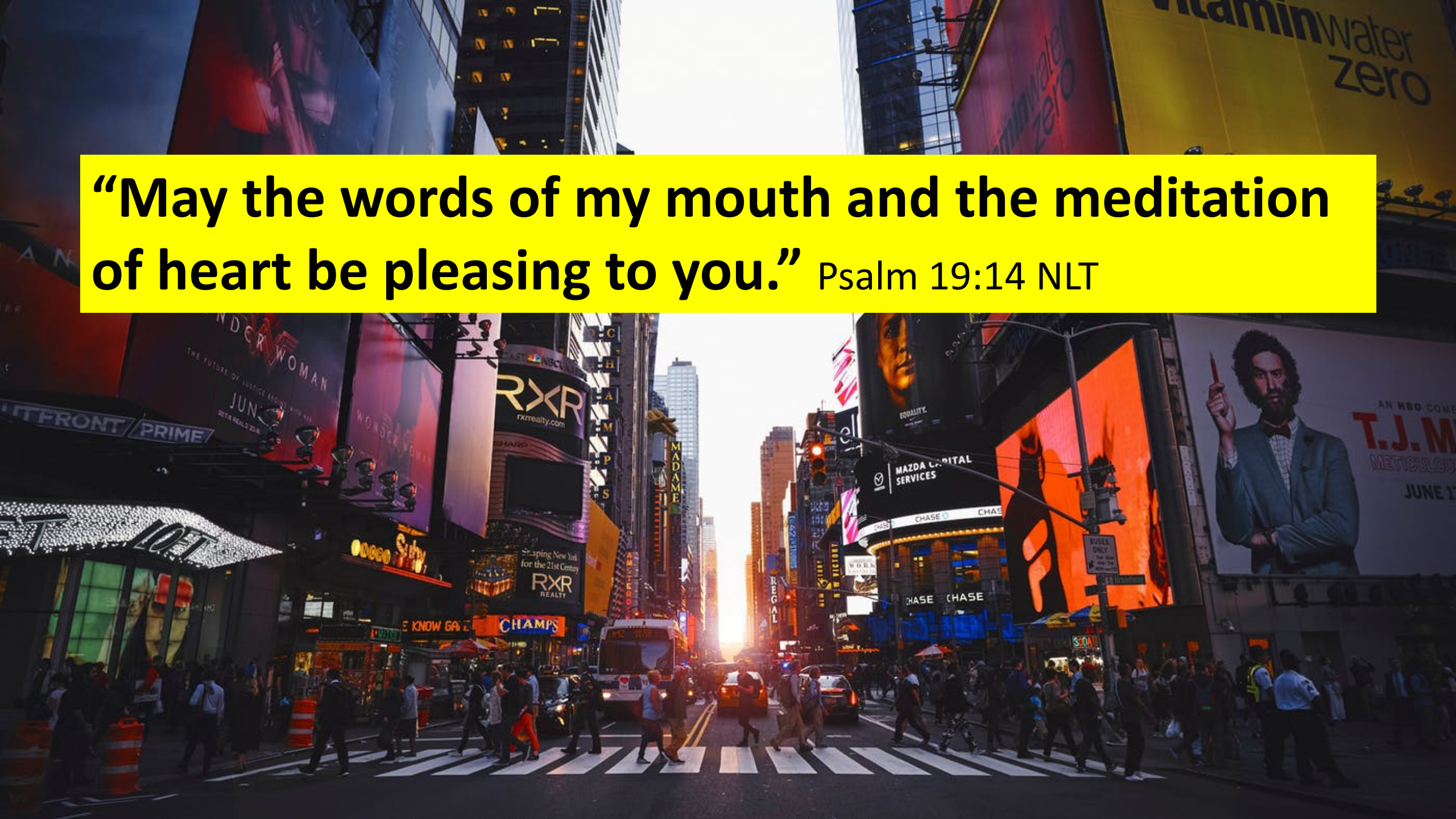
“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” - Jesus (Matthew 6:24 NIV)



**For everything in the world. . . comes not from the Father but from the world.
comes not from the Father but from the world.**



**“May the words of my mouth and the meditation
of heart be pleasing to you.” Psalm 19:14 NLT**





**“And the world passes away, and the lust of it; but
he who does the will of God abides forever.” v17**

John 14:15 – If you love me you will obey what I command.

v21 – Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me.

v23 – If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching.

v24 – He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.

v31 The world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me.



So why don't I feel much love for God?

- You are not yet born again
- Your love for God has grown weak and cold



**“...a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench... Isaiah 42:3
He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms...” Isaiah 40:11**



TODAY'S TAKEAWAY:

**THE MOST PRECIOUS LOVE WE CAN HAVE IS OUR
LOVE FOR JESUS AND THAT IS A LOVE WORTH
FIGHTING FOR!**

